

# NATURALOPY

PRECEPT 19

# LIBERTY







# NATURALOPY

## CELEBRATING HUMANITY

Since time immemorial, our ancestors have gone to great lengths to fabricate myths and fables to answer the six primary existential questions of life:

- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

For thousands of years, the East Indians, Sumerians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Mayans, and other great civilizations of the past have conjured fairy tales of a god or group of gods to justify their existence. We now look at their abandoned gods and think how naive and backward our ancestors must have been.

Today, the Christians, Jews, and Muslims hold steadfast to the idea that an omnipotent figure created the Universe and Earth 6,000 - 10,000 years ago. And that all humans were seeded by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden somewhere in modern day Iran or Iraq. These beliefs persist despite the fact that science has refuted and disclaimed those assertions with empirical evidence—evidence that can be verified by anyone willing to do the research. Most don't, thus the perpetual conflict between the Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

The Universe is roughly 13.8 billion years old; the Earth 4.6 billion years old; Humans are the product of evolution, 4.3 billion years in the making.

There is no need to attribute to the gods what Humanity has achieved.



## **Naturalopy** (naCHərə lō pē)

noun

1. The philosophy of adopting universal knowledge and collective wisdom from historical and contemporary sources to form a belief system.
2. The Naturalopist belief system, founded on the shared knowledge and experiences of Humanity; modern philosophy; natural philosophy.

## **Naturalopist** (naCHərə lō pist)

noun

1. One who believes in universal knowledge and collective wisdom as a basis for her or his moral guidelines and belief system; naturalist; spiritualist.
2. One who embraces the 20 Naturalopic Precepts as a guideline for a worldview; acknowledges the law of cause and effect.
3. One who adopts preeminent ideologies and philosophies regardless of their origin; objective mindset.

## **Naturalopic** (naCHərə lō pik)

adjective

Of or relating to the precepts of Naturalopy; collective knowledge, objectivity, cause and effect, empirical evidence, spirituality, transparency, natural philosophy, Nature; equality before the Law, beneficial to Humanity.



# The 20 Precepts of Naturalopy

**Precept** (pre sept)  
noun

A rule, directive, or principle that guides one’s actions, particularly as pertains to moral conduct.

Naturalopy is structured into 20 primary precepts, most of them with supporting precepts.

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Freewill     | 11. Happiness   |
| 2. Karma        | 12. Love        |
| 3. Simplicity   | 13. Dreams      |
| 4. Health       | 14. Wisdom      |
| 5. Spirituality | 15. Success     |
| 6. Compassion   | 16. Suffering   |
| 7. Purpose      | 17. Forgiveness |
| 8. Virtue       | 18. Salvation   |
| 9. Attitude     | 19. Liberty     |
| 10. Character   | 20. Time        |

When taken as a whole and expanded in detail, the Naturalopic framework of 20 precepts is more comprehensive in scope than any single religion or philosophy because it embraces all available knowledge.

Life can be complex, therefore our moral guidelines and belief system are only complete, accurate, and objective when they’re derived from multiple historical and contemporary sources, regardless of their origin.

Life did not come with a manual. Life is a learning process. We make mistakes; we are not sinners. The better choices we make, the higher our quality of life. But we can only make better choices when we are enlightened...



# NATURALOPY

PRECEPT 19

LIBERTY





## PRECEPT 19

# LIBERTY

### **liberty**

choice, autonomy, birthright, emancipation, independence, natural rights

1. The condition of being free from imprisonment, slavery or forced labour.
2. The condition of being free to act, believe or express oneself as one chooses.
3. The condition of being free from control or restrictions.

Humans are born to be free; to explore, mingle, share, move, express, learn, and grow. These are the inherent natural rights of every Human Being. But humans are also complicated and selfish creatures, thus the state's need to suppress and deny these liberties. Unfettered liberty culminates in either anarchy or dictatorship. Thus, individual liberties such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom to assemble are sometimes suppressed for the common good—carte blanche liberty is detrimental to state security. At least that is what governments tell its people.

In order to have a structured, safe, and secure nation, citizens cannot be given unrestricted natural rights. Because, again, many or most humans are selfish by nature. And a few are greedy beyond reason. Therefore, the common good (good of the state) must supersede individual liberties, even if it is enforced with the gun.

Liberty is a complicated subject in theory, and even more complicated in practice, especially when it involves governing billions of people of different cultures. Ideally, all societies should include these components of liberty:

- freedom of speech
- freedom of the press
- freedom of religion
- freedom of movement
- economic freedom
- political freedom
- freedom to associate

- freedom from harm
- justice

Liberty encompasses sociology, politics, economics, and law. We know from history that the ideals of western democracy are unsuited for many cultures—some nations have fared well under socialism and theocracy, even when many natural rights are restricted or denied. However, emigration and immigration statistics have shown that people tend to gravitate toward nations that have the most liberties. But, nations with the most liberties are not necessarily the safest, nor the wealthiest, nor the most equitable, nor the most just.

Without liberty, we would have a body without a mind or soul—we would be caged animals without liberties. We would merely exist as a cog and number in a mechanical system. On the other hand, when there is unchecked liberty, the selfish, the greedy, and the sycophant among us usurp the system.

The discussion of individual liberty versus the common good is a contentious and endless debate. Like most things in life, when there are two extremes the middle ground is often the workable solution.

Liberty is a balancing act.



# The Spirit Of Civil Disobedience

Howard Zinn, 1970



I start from the supposition that the world is topsy-turvy, that things are all wrong, that the wrong people are in jail and the wrong people are out of jail, that the wrong people are in power and the wrong people are out of power, that the wealth is distributed in this country and the world in such a way as not simply to require small reform but to require a drastic reallocation of wealth.

I start from the supposition that we don't have to say too much about this because all we have to do is think about the state of the world today and realize that things are all upside down. Daniel Berrigan is in jail—A Catholic priest, a poet who opposes the war—and J. Edgar Hoover is free, you see. David Dellinger, who has opposed war ever since he was this high and who has used all of his energy and passion against it, is in danger of going to jail. The men who are responsible for the My Lai massacre are not on trial; they are in Washington serving various functions, primary and subordinate, that have to do with the unleashing of massacres, which surprise them when they occur. At Kent State University four students were killed by the National Guard and students were indicted. In every city in this country, when demonstrations take place, the protesters, whether they have demonstrated or not, whatever they have done, are assaulted and clubbed by police, and then they are arrested for assaulting a police officer.

Now, I have been studying very closely what happens every day in the courts in Boston, Massachusetts. You would be astounded—maybe you wouldn't, maybe you have been around, maybe you have lived, maybe you have thought, maybe you have been hit—at how the daily rounds of injustice make their way through this marvelous thing that we call due process. Well, that is my premise.

All you have to do is read the Soledad letters of George Jackson, who was sentenced to one year to life, of which he spent ten years, for a seventy-dollar robbery of a filling station. And then there is the U.S. Senator who is alleged to keep 185,000 dollars a year, or something like that, on the oil depletion allowance. One is theft; the other is legislation. Something is wrong, something is terribly wrong when we ship 10,000 bombs full of nerve gas across the country, and drop them in somebody else's swimming pool so as not to trouble our own. So you lose your perspective after a while. If you don't think, if you just listen to TV and read scholarly things, you actually begin to think that things are not so bad, or that just little things are wrong. But you have to get a little detached, and then come back and look at the world, and you are horrified. So we have to start from that supposition—that things are really topsy-turvy.

And our topic is topsy-turvy: civil disobedience. As soon as you say the topic is civil disobedience, you are saying our problem is civil disobedience. That is not our problem.... Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is the numbers of people all over the world who have obeyed the dictates of the leaders of their government and have gone to war, and millions have been killed because of this obedience. And our problem is that scene in *All Quiet on the Western Front* where the schoolboys march off dutifully in a line to war. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world, in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves, and all the while the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem.

We recognize this for Nazi Germany. We know that the problem there was obedience, that the people obeyed Hitler. People obeyed; that was wrong. They should have challenged, and they should have resisted; and if we were only there, we would have showed them. Even in Stalin's Russia we can understand that; people are obedient, all these herd-like people.

But America is different. That is what we've all been brought up on. From the time we are this high and I still hear it resounding in Mr. Frankel's statement—you tick off, one, two, three, four, five lovely things about America that we don't want disturbed very much. But if we have learned anything in the past ten years, it is that these lovely things about America were never lovely. We have been expansionist and aggressive and mean to other people from the beginning. And we've been aggressive and mean to people in this country, and we've allocated the wealth of this country in a very unjust way. We've never had justice in the courts for the poor people, for black people, for radicals. Now how can we boast that America is a very special place? It is not that special. It really isn't.

Well, that is our topic, that is our problem: civil obedience. Law is very important. We are talking about obedience to law—law, this marvelous invention of modern times, which we attribute to Western civilization, and which we talk about proudly. The rule of law, oh, how wonderful, all these courses in Western civilization all over the land. Remember those bad old days when people were exploited by feudalism? Everything was terrible in the Middle Ages—but now we have Western civilization, the rule of law. The rule of law has regularized and maximized the injustice that existed before the rule of law, that is what the rule of law has done. Let us start looking at the rule of law realistically, not with that metaphysical complacency with which we always examined it before.

When in all the nations of the world the rule of law is the darling of the leaders and the plague of the people, we ought to begin to recognize this. We have to transcend these national boundaries in our thinking. Nixon and Brezhnev have much more in common with one another than we have with Nixon. J. Edgar Hoover has far more in common



with the head of the Soviet secret police than he has with us. It's the international dedication to law and order that binds the leaders of all countries in a comradely bond. That's why we are always surprised when they get together—they smile, they shake hands, they smoke cigars, they really like one another no matter what they say. It's like the Republican and Democratic parties, who claim that it's going to make a terrible difference if one or the other wins, yet they are all the same.

Basically, it is us against them.

Yossarian was right, remember, in *Catch-22*? He had been accused of giving aid and comfort to the enemy, which nobody should ever be accused of, and Yossarian said to his friend Clevinger: “The enemy is whoever is going to get you killed, whichever side they are on.” But that didn't sink in, so he said to Clevinger: “Now you remember that, or one of these days you'll be dead.” And remember? Clevinger, after a while, was dead. And we must remember that our enemies are not divided along national lines, that enemies are not just people who speak different languages and occupy different territories. Enemies are people who want to get us killed.

We are asked, “What if everyone disobeyed the law?” But a better question is, “What if everyone obeyed the law?” And the answer to that question is much easier to come by, because we have a lot of empirical evidence about what happens if everyone obeys the law, or if even most people obey the law. What happens is what has happened, what is happening. Why do people revere the law? And we all do; even I have to fight it, for it was put into my bones at an early age when I was a Cub Scout. One reason we revere the law is its ambivalence. In the modern world we deal with phrases and words that have multiple meanings, like “national security.” Oh, yes, we must do this for national security! Well, what does that mean? Whose national security? Where? When? Why? We don't bother to answer those questions, or even to ask them.

The law conceals many things. The law is the Bill of Rights. In fact, that is what we think of when we develop our reverence for the law. The law is something that protects us; the law is our right—the law is the Constitution. Bill of Rights Day, essay contests sponsored by the American Legion on our Bill of Rights, that is the law. And that is good.

But there is another part of the law that doesn't get ballyhooed—the legislation that has gone through month after month, year after year, from the beginning of the Republic, which allocates the resources of the country in such a way as to leave some people very rich and other people very poor, and still others scrambling like mad for what little is left. That is the law. If you go to law school you will see this. You can quantify it by counting the big, heavy law books that people carry around with them and see how many law books you count that say “Constitutional Rights” on them and how many that say “Property,” “Contracts,” “Torts,” “Corporation Law.” That is what the law is

mostly about. The law is the oil depletion allowance—although we don't have Oil Depletion Allowance Day, we don't have essays written on behalf of the oil depletion allowance. So there are parts of the law that are publicized and played up to us—oh, this is the law, the Bill of Rights. And there are other parts of the law that just do their quiet work, and nobody says anything about them.

It started way back. When the Bill of Rights was first passed, remember, in the first administration of Washington? Great thing. Bill of Rights passed! Big ballyhoo. At the same time Hamilton's economic program was passed. Nice, quiet, money to the rich—I'm simplifying it a little, but not too much. Hamilton's economic program started it off. You can draw a straight line from Hamilton's economic program to the oil depletion allowance to the tax write-offs for corporations. All the way through—that is the history. The Bill of Rights publicized; economic legislation unpublicized.

You know the enforcement of different parts of the law is as important as the publicity attached to the different parts of the law. The Bill of Rights, is it enforced? Not very well. You'll find that freedom of speech in constitutional law is a very difficult, ambiguous, troubled concept. Nobody really knows when you can get up and speak and when you can't. Just check all of the Supreme Court decisions. Talk about predictability in a system—you can't predict what will happen to you when you get up on the street corner and speak. See if you can tell the difference between the Terminiello case and the Feiner case, and see if you can figure out what is going to happen. By the way, there is one part of the law that is not very vague, and that involves the right to distribute leaflets on the street. The Supreme Court has been very clear on that. In decision after decision we are affirmed an absolute right to distribute leaflets on the street. Try it. Just go out on the street and start distributing leaflets. And a policeman comes up to you and he says, "Get out of here."

And you say, "Aha! Do you know Marsh v. Alabama, 1946?" That is the reality of the Bill of Rights. That's the reality of the Constitution, that part of the law which is portrayed to us as a beautiful and marvelous thing. And seven years after the Bill of Rights was passed, which said that "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech," Congress made a law abridging the freedom of speech. Remember? The Sedition Act of 1798.

So the Bill of Rights was not enforced. Hamilton's program was enforced, because when the whisky farmers went out and rebelled you remember, in 1794 in Pennsylvania, Hamilton himself got on his horse and went out there to suppress the rebellion to make sure that the revenue tax was enforced. And you can trace the story right down to the present day, what laws are enforced, what laws are not enforced. So you have to be careful when you say, "I'm for the law, I revere the law." What part of the law are you talking about? I'm not against all law. But I think we ought to begin to make very important distinctions about what laws do what things to what people.

And there are other problems with the law. It's a strange thing, we think that law brings order. Law doesn't. How do we know that law does not bring order? Look around us. We live under the rules of law. Notice how much order we have? People say we have to worry about civil disobedience because it will lead to anarchy. Take a look at the present world in which the rule of law obtains. This is the closest to what is called anarchy in the popular mind—confusion, chaos, international banditry. The only order that is really worth anything does not come through the enforcement ... of law, it comes through the establishment of a society which is just and in which harmonious relationships are established and in which you need a minimum of regulation to create decent sets of arrangements among people. But the order based on law and on the force of law is the order of the totalitarian state, and it inevitably leads either to total injustice or to rebellion—eventually, in other words, to very great disorder.

We all grow up with the notion that the law is holy. They asked Daniel Berrigan's mother what she thought of her son's breaking the law. He burned draft records—one of the most violent acts of this century—to protest the war, for which he was sentenced to prison, as criminals should be. They asked his mother who is in her eighties, what she thought of her son's breaking the law. And she looked straight into the interviewer's face, and she said, "It's not God's law." Now we forget that. There is nothing sacred about the law. Think of who makes laws. The law is not made by God, it is made by Strom Thurmond. If you have any notion about the sanctity and loveliness and reverence for the law, look at the legislators around the country who make the laws. Sit in on the sessions of the state legislatures. Sit in on Congress, for these are the people who make the laws which we are then supposed to revere.

All of this is done with such propriety as to fool us. This is the problem. In the old days, things were confused; you didn't know. Now you know. It is all down there in the books. Now we go through due process. Now the same things happen as happened before, except that we've gone through the right procedures. In Boston a policeman walked into a hospital ward and fired five times at a black man who had snapped a towel at his arm—and killed him. A hearing was held. The judge decided that the policeman was justified because if he didn't do it, he would lose the respect of his fellow officers. Well, that is what is known as due process—that is, the guy didn't get away with it. We went through the proper procedures, and everything was set up. The decorum, the propriety of the law fools us.

The nation then, was founded on disrespect for the law, and then came the Constitution and the notion of stability which Madison and Hamilton liked. But then we found in certain crucial times in our history that the legal framework did not suffice, and in order to end slavery we had to go outside the legal framework, as we had to do at the time of the American Revolution or the Civil War. The union had to go outside the legal framework in order to establish certain rights in the 1930s. And in this time, which may be more critical than the Revolution or the Civil War, the problems are so horren-



dous as to require us to go outside the legal framework in order to make a statement, to resist, to begin to establish the kind of institutions and relationships which a decent society should have. No, not just tearing things down; building things up. But even if you build things up that you are not supposed to build up—you try to build up a people's park, that's not tearing down a system; you are building something up, but you are doing it illegally—the militia comes in and drives you out. That is the form that civil disobedience is going to take more and more, people trying to build a new society in the midst of the old.

But what about voting and elections? Civil disobedience—we don't need that much of it, we are told, because we can go through the electoral system. And by now we should have learned, but maybe we haven't, for we grew up with the notion that the voting booth is a sacred place, almost like a confessional. You walk into the voting booth and you come out and they snap your picture and then put it in the papers with a beatific smile on your face. You've just voted; that is democracy. But if you even read what the political scientists say—although who can? About the voting process, you find that the voting process is a sham. Totalitarian states love voting. You get people to the polls and they register their approval. I know there is a difference—they have one party and we have two parties. We have one more party than they have, you see.

What we are trying to do, I assume, is really to get back to the principles and aims and spirit of the Declaration of Independence. This spirit is resistance to illegitimate authority and to forces that deprive people of their life and liberty and right to pursue happiness, and therefore under these conditions, it urges the right to alter or abolish their current form of government—and the stress had been on abolish. But to establish the principles of the Declaration of Independence, we are going to need to go outside the law, to stop obeying the laws that:

- demand killing or
- that allocate wealth the way it has been done, or
- that put people in jail for petty technical offenses and keep other people out of jail for enormous crimes.

My hope is that this kind of spirit will take place not just in this country but in other countries because they all need it. People in all countries need the spirit of disobedience to the state, which is not a metaphysical thing but a thing of force and wealth. And we need a kind of declaration of interdependence among people in all countries of the world who are striving for the same thing.



Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.

Abraham Lincoln

The problem in this world is not civil disobedience. The problem in this world is civil obedience.



Howard Zinn

Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves.



Henry David Thoreau

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.



Thomas Jefferson



I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

Voltaire

Don't interfere with anything in the constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.



Abraham Lincoln

I shall assume that your silence gives consent.



Plato



John Adams

Human nature itself is evermore an advocate for liberty. There is also in human nature a resentment of injury, and indignation against wrong. A love of truth and a veneration of virtue. These amiable passions, are the "latent spark." If the people are capable of understanding, seeing and feeling the differences between true and false, right and wrong, virtue and vice, to what better principle can the friends of mankind apply than to the sense of this difference?



Man will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest.

Denis Diderot



There is no honourable way to kill and no gentle way to destroy. There is nothing good in war except its ending.

Abraham Lincoln



When the tyrant has disposed of foreign enemies by conquest or treaty, and there is nothing more to fear from them, then he is always stirring up some war or other, in order that the people may require a leader.

Plato



The best job goes to the person who can get it done without passing the buck or coming back with excuses.

Napoleon Hill





Robert Reich

The moral crisis of our age has nothing to do with gay marriage or abortion. It's insider trading, obscene CEO pay, wage theft from ordinary workers, Wall Street's gambling addiction, corporate payoffs to friendly politicians, and the billionaire takeover of our democracy.

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.



Dwight Eisenhower

The government does not need to know more about what we are doing. We need to know more about what the government is doing. We need to turn the cameras on the police and on the government, not the other way around.



Ron Paul

Privatization is a neoliberal and imperialist plan. Health can't be privatized because it is a fundamental human right, nor can education, water, electricity, and other public services. They can't be surrendered to private capital that denies the people from their rights.



Hugo Chavez



Anyone in a free society where the laws are unjust has an obligation to break the law.

Henry David Thoreau



When a nation is filled with strife, then do patriots flourish.

Lao Tzu

Be not intimidated, nor suffer yourselves to be wheedled out of your liberties by any pretense of politeness, delicacy, or decency. These, as they are often used, are but three different names for hypocrisy, chicanery, and cowardice.



John Adams

Life without liberty is like a body without spirit. Liberty without thought is like a disturbed spirit.



Kahlil Gibran



To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize.

Voltaire



If the machine of government is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law.

Henry David Thoreau



Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

John F. Kennedy



They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Benjamin Franklin



When the people fear their government,  
there is tyranny; when the government fears  
the people, there is liberty.



Thomas Jefferson

People with too much knowledge  
are difficult to govern.



Lao Tzu

The most dangerous man, to any government,  
is the man who is able to think things out for  
himself. Almost inevitably, he comes to the con-  
clusion that the government he lives under is  
dishonest, insane, and intolerable.



H.L. Mencken



If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of  
beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal  
members who can make a difference. They are the father,  
the mother, and the teacher.

Abdul Kalam

Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.



Theodore Roosevelt

When I was poor and complained about inequality, they said I was bitter. Now, I'm rich and complain about inequality, they say I'm a hypocrite. I'm starting to think they just don't want to talk about inequality.



Russell Brand

But you must remember, my fellow-citizens, that eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty, and that you must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing.



Andrew Jackson

The less you rely on any person or organization for your needs, the more liberty you have.



Trung Nguyen

A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government.

Edward Abbey



The jaws of power are always open to devour, and her arm is always stretched out, if possible, to destroy the freedom of thinking, speaking, and writing.



John Adams



A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury.

John Stuart Mill



Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence.

Leonardo da Vinci



Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people.

John Adams

That government is best which governs least.



Henry David Thoreau

Government don't want well informed, well educated people capable of critical thinking. That is against their interests. They want obedient workers, people who are just smart enough to run the machines and do the paperwork. And just dumb enough to passively accept it.



George Carlin

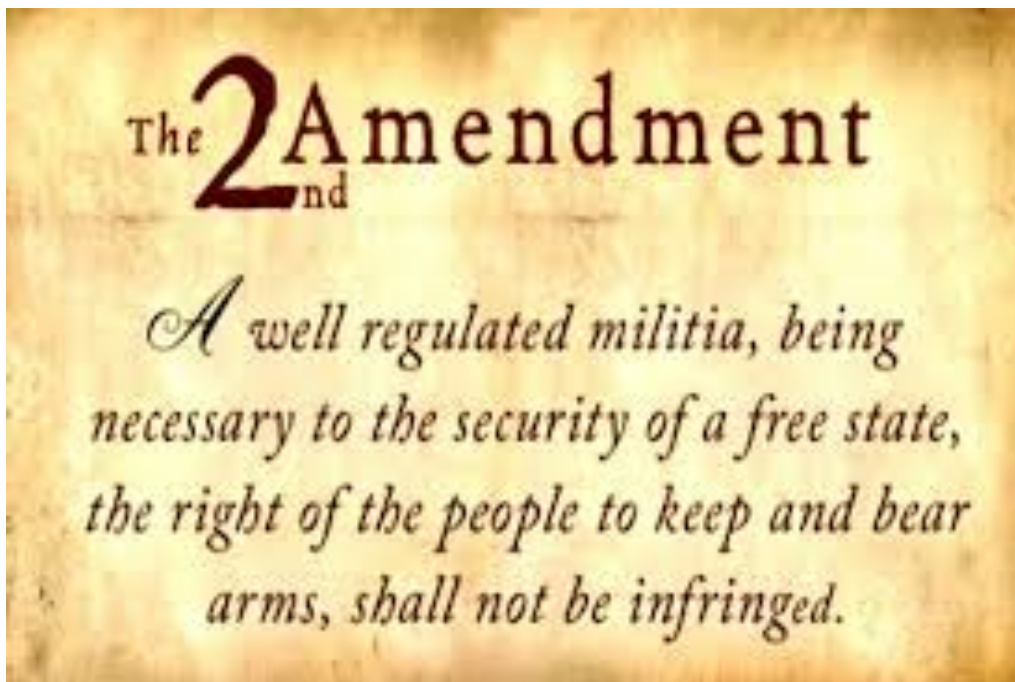


Concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty.

Ronald Reagan



## THE SECOND AMENDMENT



Thomas Jefferson said, “No Free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.”

James Madison had this to say, “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. A well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the best and most natural defense of a free country.”

George Washington said, “Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself. They are the American people’s liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... From the hour the Pilgrims landed, to the present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable . . . the very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference—they deserve a place of honor with all that is good.”

Samuel Adams was quoted as saying, “That the said Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of The United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.”

Thomas Jefferson added, “The strongest reason for people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

Those are the things that the founding fathers of our country had to say about guns. The United States of America has been free from tyranny for well over 200 years. The reason we are able to speak our minds, practice whatever religion we want to, have a government run for the people, by the people, and the many, many other freedoms we enjoy is because of the people quoted above and numerous others like them throughout our country's history. They fought for our freedoms. They fought against tyranny, against a monarchy that ruled from afar, and they fought for the right to try this new experiment called America.

George Washington reasoned, "A free people ought not only be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who may attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government."

# JUSTICE

## **justice**

redress, fairness, correction, amends, integrity, truth, due process, impartiality

1. The state or characteristic of being just or fair.
2. The ideal of fairness, impartiality, etc., especially with regard to the punishment of wrongdoing.

Justice is a contentious societal matter. Theory, religion, politics, and law all have different perspectives on justice. Take capital punishment and economic justice as examples.

Justice can be broken into three main components: social justice (police, court, attorney), personal justice (emotions), and supernatural justice (karma).

**Economic justice.** As capitalism has become ubiquitous, economic justice is surfacing to the forefront. The gap between the rich and the poor is greater than any time in history.

**Social justice.** The most quarrelous point with social justice is access to it and who the system favors. Is it a coincidence that social justice is more favourable to the wealthy? No, it's not a coincidence. The fact that the wealthy are favored is the injustice in the social justice system.

**Global justice.** What about inter-nation justice whereby powerful nations steal and rob (colonialism, imperialism) weaker nations of their resources? Well, in the long arc of time, no person or nation escapes supernatural justice (karma). The Egyptians, Romans, Mongols, French, British, and USA haven't escaped supernatural justice.

## OPPRESSION AND SLAVERY

When you oppress and enslave people:

Will you sleep better? Or will you stay up nights worrying who will exact revenge?

Will you eat better? Or will you feed your body alcohol and drugs to mask the pain and guilt?

Will you love more? Or will you be so paranoid as to be incapable of love?

Will people love you more? Or will they publicly respect you but secretly plot your demise?

Will your children be proud of your accomplishments? Or will they openly enjoy your largesse but privately despise you for exploiting and oppressing their fellow Humans?

Will you have more children than those you exploit and oppress? Or will Nature reduce your ilk in numbers to ensure the survival of all Her creations?

Will people praise your afterlife? Or will they revile, mock, and ridicule you after you're dead?

Will you have peace of mind? No.

Then don't oppress or enslave people.







Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are affected.



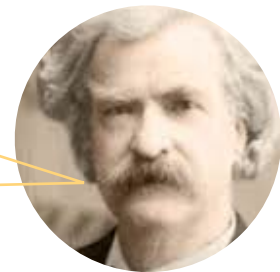
Benjamin Franklin



Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.



Mark Twain



Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion and lying and greed. If people all over the world would do this, it would change the Earth.

William Faulkner

Never be afraid to stand with the minority when the minority is right, for the minority which is right will one day be the majority.

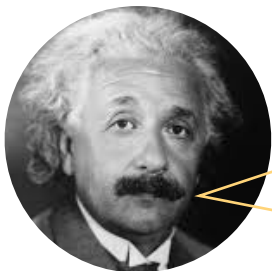


Willaim Jennings Bryan



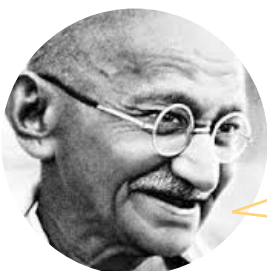
Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.

Albert Einstein



There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It supersedes all other courts.

Mahatma Gandhi



Anyone in a free society where the laws are unjust has an obligation to break the law.

Henry David Thoreau

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.



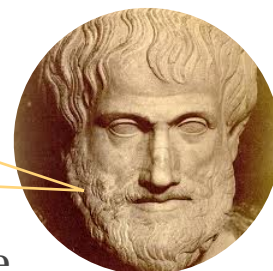
Abraham Lincoln

I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against.



Malcolm X

At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.



Aristotle



It is impossible to struggle for civil rights, equal rights for blacks, without including whites. Because equal rights, fair play, justice, are all like the air: we all have it, or none of us has it. That is the truth of it.

Maya Angelou

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained.



Helen Keller

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects us directly, affects all indirectly.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.



Robert Kennedy

Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity.



Alexander Solzhenitsyn



Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, neither persons nor property will be safe.



Frederick Douglass

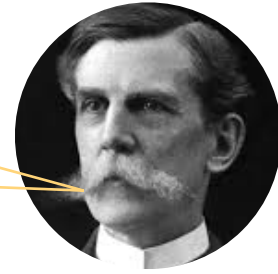
When I see the Ten Most Wanted Lists, I always have this thought: If we'd made them feel wanted earlier, they wouldn't be wanted now.



Edie Cantor



This is a court of law, young man, not a court of justice.



Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



Justice is open to everyone in the same way as the Ritz Hotel.

Judge Sturgess



If the laws could speak for themselves, they would complain of the lawyers in the first place.

Lord Halifax



Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through.

Jonathan Swift



It is not what a lawyer tells me what I may do; but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I ought to do.

Edmund Burke

The law should be a shield for the weak and powerless, not a club for the powerful.



Gov. Roy Barnes



Treat people as if they were what they should be, and you help them become what they are capable of becoming.

Johann Goethe

It is the daily; it is the small; it is the cumulative injuries of little people that we are here to protect. If we are able to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment:

THOU SHALT NOT RATION JUSTICE.



Judge Learned Hand

The first duty of society is justice.



Alexander Hamilton

Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building, it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists. It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.



Lewis Powell, Jr.

Equality before the law in a true democracy is a matter of right. It cannot be a matter of charity or of favor or of grace or of discretion.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Wiley



There can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a man gets depends on the amount of money he has.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

Justice does not come from the outside. It comes from inner peace.



Barbara Hall

Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph.



Haile Selassie

Concepts of justice must have hands and feet to carry out justice in every case in the shortest possible time and the lowest possible cost. This is the challenge to every lawyer and judge in America.



Warren E. Burger

In the state of nature, indeed, all men are born equal, but they cannot continue in this equality. Society makes them lose it, and they recover it only by the protection of the laws.



Charles de Montesquieu

The dead cannot cry out for justice; it is a duty of the living to do so for them.



Lois McMaster Bujold



Pope Pius

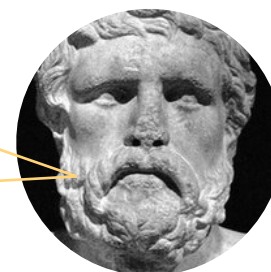
Justice requires that to lawfully constituted Authority there be given that respect and obedience which is its due; that the laws which are made shall be in wise conformity with the common good; and that, as a matter of conscience all men shall render obedience to these laws.

Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong.



Theodore Roosevelt

Courage is of no value unless accompanied by justice; yet if all men became just, there would be no need for courage.



Agesilaus the Second



## SECRET SOCIETIES

John F. Kennedy

April 27, 1961, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City

The very word “secrecy” is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths and to secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweigh the dangers which are cited to justify it. Even today, there is little value in opposing the threat of a closed society by imitating its arbitrary restrictions. Even today, there is little value in insuring the survival of our nation if our traditions do not survive with it. And there is very grave danger that an announced need for increased security will be seized upon by those anxious to expand its meaning to the very limits of official censorship and concealment. That I do not intend to permit to the extent that it is in my control. And no official of my Administration, whether his rank is high or low, civilian or military, should interpret my words here tonight as an excuse to censor the news, to stifle dissent, to cover up our mistakes or to withhold from the press and the public the facts they deserve to know.

But I do ask every publisher, every editor, and every newsman in the nation to reexamine his own standards, and to recognize the nature of our country's peril. In time of war, the government and the press have customarily joined in an effort based largely on self-discipline, to prevent unauthorized disclosures to the enemy. In time of “clear and present danger,” the courts have held that even the privileged rights of the First Amendment must yield to the public's need for national security. Today no war has been declared—and however fierce the struggle may be, it may never be declared in the traditional fashion. Our way of life is under attack. Those who make themselves our enemy are advancing around the globe. The survival of our friends is in danger. And yet no war has been declared, no borders have been crossed by marching troops, no missiles have been fired.

If the press is awaiting a declaration of war before it imposes the self-discipline of combat conditions, then I can only say that no war ever posed a greater threat to our security. If you are awaiting a finding of “clear and present danger,” then I can only say that the danger has never been more clear and its presence has never been more imminent.

It requires a change in outlook, a change in tactics, a change in missions—by the government, by the people, by every businessman or labor leader, and by every newspaper. For we are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence—on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day. It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific and political operations.

Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed. It conducts the Cold War, in short, with a war-time discipline no democracy would ever hope or wish to match.

Nevertheless, every democracy recognizes the necessary restraints of national security—and the question remains whether those restraints need to be more strictly observed if we are to oppose this kind of attack as well as outright invasion. For the facts of the matter are that this nation's foes have openly boasted of acquiring through our newspapers information they would otherwise hire agents to acquire through theft, bribery or espionage; that details of this nation's covert preparations to counter the enemy's covert operations have been available to every newspaper reader, friend and foe alike; that the size, the strength, the location and the nature of our forces and weapons, and our plans and strategy for their use, have all been pinpointed in the press and other news media to a degree sufficient to satisfy any foreign power; and that, in at least in one case, the publication of details concerning a secret mechanism whereby satellites were followed required its alteration at the expense of considerable time and money.

The newspapers which printed these stories were loyal, patriotic, responsible and well-meaning. Had we been engaged in open warfare, they undoubtedly would not have published such items. But in the absence of open warfare, they recognized only the tests of journalism and not the tests of national security. And my question tonight is whether additional tests should not now be adopted.

The question is for you alone to answer. No public official should answer it for you. No governmental plan should impose its restraints against your will. But I would be failing in my duty to the nation, in considering all of the responsibilities that we now bear and all of the means at hand to meet those responsibilities, if I did not commend this problem to your attention, and urge its thoughtful consideration. On many earlier occasions, I have said—and your newspapers have constantly said—that these are times that appeal to every citizen's sense of sacrifice and self-discipline. They call out to every citizen to weigh his rights and comforts against his obligations to the common good. I cannot now believe that those citizens who serve in the newspaper business consider themselves exempt from that appeal. I have no intention of establishing a new Office of War Information to govern the flow of news. I am not suggesting any new forms of censorship or any new types of security classifications. I have no easy answer to the dilemma that I have posed, and would not seek to impose it if I had one. But I am asking the members of the newspaper profession and the industry in this country to reexamine their own responsibilities, to consider the degree and the nature of the present danger, and to heed the duty of self-restraint which that danger imposes upon us all.

Every newspaper now asks itself, with respect to every story: “Is it news?” All I suggest is that you add the question: “Is it in the interest of the national security?” And I hope that every group in America—unions and businessmen and public officials at every level—will ask the same question of their endeavors, and subject their actions to the same exacting tests.

And should the press of America consider and recommend the voluntary assumption of specific new steps or machinery, I can assure you that we will cooperate wholeheartedly with those recommendations.



Perhaps there will be no recommendations. Perhaps there is no answer to the dilemma faced by a free and open society in a cold and secret war. In times of peace, any discussion of this subject, and any action that results, are both painful and without precedent. But this is a time of peace and peril which knows no precedent in history.

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# ECONOMICS

## **economics**

business, finance, social science

1. The study of resource allocation, distribution and consumption; of capital and investment; and of management of the factors of production.

Land, labour, and capital are the means (factors) of production. And money is the medium of exchange for all three means of production. Therefore, whoever controls the issuance of money controls the means of production, and in turn the economy. In recent years, the role of central banks has surfaced as the lever behind the economy of nations. For example, the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank controls the U.S. money supply; similarly, the ECB (European Central Bank) issues euros for EU member countries. Both the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank and the European Central Bank are private banks whose legal duty is to maximize profit for its shareholders. In fact, all central banks around the globe have a fiduciary duty to maximize profit for its shareholders (member banks)—these banks are not responsible for the citizens of the countries in which they operate. These central banks are out for themselves. At the heart of all the central banks around the globe is BIS (Bank for International Settlements), based in Basel Switzerland. Little is known about BIS, except that its owners and members are central banks, of which there are about 200 around the globe. These global banks are responsible for personal and national debts that are mathematically impossible to pay off. This condition is known as indentured servitude, or enslavement.

Central banks, the World Bank, IMF (International Monetary Fund), and BIS are all owned by corporations, institutions, or individuals. Despite having their hands on almost every country on Earth, little is known about who actually owns these banks. However, the usual suspects keep showing up: the secretive Rothschild banking dynasty, the Monarchs of Europe, the Vatican, and the Commission of 300. Because of the international reach and power of these banks, our government is not as independ-

ent as we think or would like it to be. Whether it's communism, socialism, or capitalism, whoever controls the money supply controls the political system.

The debate as to who should control the money supply, thus the means of production, is complex. If money (now representing land, labour, and capital) is the means of production, then communism results when the means of production are government controlled. We know how well communism worked out. On the other spectrum, if money is entirely in the hands of private entities, then we have economic injustice—the wide and widening gap between the rich and poor, individual debt tantamount to lifelong-indentured servitude, and national debt that is mathematically impossible to pay off. We are now beginning to uncover that with laissez-faire capitalism the individual and the nation are indebted to international banks and bankers.

Humans are born to be free, and not to live in serfdom, indentured servitude, economic oppression, or slavery. Throughout history, we have witnessed the violent demise of tyrants and kings and queens who had oppressed their peoples.

When there are two extremes, the middle ground is often the workable solution. A hybrid monetary system has not been tried. In this hybrid monetary system, the government is charged with issuing money for society's basic needs (education, water, public transportation, police, military, basic shelter, etc.) and private banks are charged with financing private enterprises. The government would be free to issue domestic-only currency to meet society's basic needs without going into debt; this domestic-only currency would circulate through private banks. While private banks would finance enterprises that spur innovation and human potential. When consumers and governments are free of debt, they have more spending power, which enriches the private banks and the enterprises they finance.

We have witnessed the fall of communism and the detrimental side effects of laissez-faire capitalism. There can be no economic freedom if society's potential is suppressed by an artificial and oppressive monetary system.

We must begin to shift from a “thing-oriented” society to a “person-oriented” society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Helen Keller

The country is governed for the richest, for the corporations, the bankers, the land speculators, and for the exploiters of labor. The majority of mankind are working people. So long as their fair demands—the ownership control of their livelihoods—are set at naught, we can have neither men’s rights nor women’s rights. The majority of mankind is ground down by industrial oppression in order that the small remnant may live in ease.

Communism: I work twice as hard so you can get paid twice as much.



Capitalist

The problem with socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people's money.



Margaret Thatcher





Let me issue and control a nation's money and I care not who makes its laws.

Mayer Amschel Rothschild

It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.

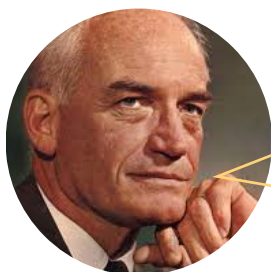


Henry Ford

I believe that the officers, and, especially directors, of corporations should be held personally responsible when any corporation breaks the law.



Theodore Roosevelt



Most Americans have no real understanding of the operation of the international money lenders. The accounts of the Federal Reserve System have never been audited. It operates outside the control of Congress and manipulates the credit of the United States.

Barry Goldwater

As long as we look to legislation to cure poverty or to abolish special privilege, we are going to see poverty spread and special privilege grow.



Henry Ford



James Madison

History records that the money changers have used every form of abuse, intrigue, deceit, and violent means possible to maintain their control over governments by controlling money and its issuance.

The Federal Reserve banks are one of the most corrupt institutions the world has ever seen. There is not a man within the sound of my voice who does not know that this nation is run by the International Bankers.



Louis T. McFadden

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. Already they have raised up a monied aristocracy that has set the government at defiance. The issuing power of money should be taken away from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs.



Thomas Jefferson

We have, in this country, one of the most corrupt institutions the world has ever known. I refer to the Federal Reserve Board. This evil institution has impoverished the people of the United States and has practically bankrupted our government. It has done this through the corrupt practices of the moneyed vultures who control it.



Louis T. McFadden

The money powers prey upon the nation in times of peace and conspire against it in times of adversity. It is more despotic than a monarchy, more insolent than autocracy, and more selfish than bureaucracy. It denounces as public enemies all who question its methods or throw light upon its crimes. I have two great enemies, the Southern Army in front of me and the bankers in the rear. Of the two, the one at my rear is my greatest foe.



Abraham Lincoln

One thing is clear: The Founding Fathers never intended a nation where citizens would pay nearly half of everything they earn to the government.



Ron Paul



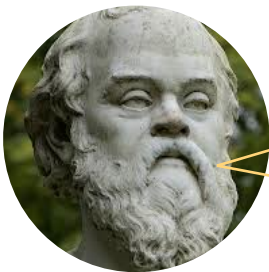
Governments have never learned anything from history, or acted on principles deducted from it.

George Wilhelm Hegel

The causes which destroyed the ancient republics were numerous; but in Rome, one principal cause was the vast inequality of fortunes.



Noah Webster



An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.

Plutarch

In the long run men inevitably become the victims of their wealth. They adapt their lives and habits to their money, not their money to their lives. It preoccupies their thoughts, creates artificial needs, and draws a curtain between them and the world.



Herbert Croly

You don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer.



Winston Churchill

Money is a new form of slavery, and distinguishable from the old simply by the fact that it is impersonal—that there is no human relation between master and slave.



Leo Tolstoy

I am a most unhappy man. I have unwittingly ruined my country. A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated Governments in the civilized world. No longer a Government by free opinion, no longer a Government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a Government by the opinion and duress of a small group of dominant men.



Woodrow Wilson



When a government is dependent upon bankers for money, they and not the leaders of the government control the situation, since the hand that gives is above the hand that takes... Money has no motherland; financiers are without patriotism and without decency; their sole object is gain.

Napoleon Bonaparte

Taxation by representation: people are being taxed, but they're not being represented. The crooks in government are using tax money to suppress and oppress their constituents.



Vanya Cohen

The Government should create, issue, and circulate all the currency and credits needed to satisfy the spending power of the Government and the buying power of consumers. By the adoption of these principles, the taxpayers will be saved immense sums of interest. Money will cease to be master and become the servant of humanity.



Abraham Lincoln

The few who understand the system will either be so interested in its profits or be so dependent upon its favours that there will be no opposition from that class, while on the other hand, the great body of people, mentally incapable of comprehending the tremendous advantage that capital derives from the system, will bear its burdens without complaint, and perhaps without even suspecting that the system is inimical to their interests.



The Rothschild Brothers of London, 1863





Nathan Rothschild

I care not what puppet is placed upon the throne of England to rule the Empire on which the sun never sets. The man who controls Britain's money supply controls the British Empire, and I control the British money supply.



Andrew Jackson

Gentlemen! I too have been a close observer of the doings of the Bank of the United States. I have had men watching you for a long time, and am convinced that you have used the funds of the bank to speculate in the breadstuffs of the country. When you won, you divided the profits amongst you, and when you lost, you charged it to the bank. You tell me that if I take the deposits from the bank and annul its charter I shall ruin ten thousand families. That may be true, gentlemen, but that is your sin! Should I let you go on, you will ruin fifty thousand families, and that would be my sin! You are a den of vipers and thieves. I have determined to rout you out, and by the Eternal... I will rout you out!

To fight this recession the Federal Reserve Bank needs more than a snapback; it needs soaring household spending to offset moribund business investment. And to do that, as Paul McCulley of Pimco put it, Alan Greenspan needs to create a housing bubble to replace the NASDAQ bubble.



Paul Krugman, 2002 (Keynesian Economics, failing since 1936)

Issue of currency should be lodged with the government and be protected from domination by Wall Street. We are opposed to provisions which would place our currency and credit system in private hands.



Theodore Roosevelt

That is simple. In the colonies we issue our own money. It is called Colonial Scrip. We issue it in proper proportion to the demands of trade and industry to make the products pass easily from the producers to the consumers. In this manner, creating for ourselves our own paper money, we control its purchasing power, and we have no interest to pay to anyone.



Benjamin Franklin

Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to government and recognized as its most conspicuous and sacred responsibility, all talk of sovereignty of Parliament and of democracy is idle and futile...Once a nation parts with control of its credit, it matters not who makes the nation's laws. Usury once in control will wreck any nation.



William Maclenzie King

End the Federal Reserve!



Ron Paul

# POLITICS

## **politics**

government, legislature, backroom, affairs of state

1. A methodology and activities associated with running a government, an organization, or a movement.
2. Political maneuvers or diplomacy between people, groups, or organizations, especially involving power, influence or conflict.

During a town hall meeting, a voter recounted all the promises a politician had made during his campaign, then pointed out that the politician had either broken those promises or did the opposite of what he had promised. To that, the politician replied, “What I said during the campaign was rhetoric.” In politics, lying has become rhetoric.

An analyst was once asked why there were always wars in the world. The analyst replied, “When we walk through the prison population we notice that there are truly evil convicts in there. There are murderers, pedophiles, and rapists. They’re in prison for a reason. Unfortunately, sociopaths and psychopaths with the same mentality are also in government. These bureaucrats and politicians kill en masse via the bills and laws they draft and pass—someone else does the killing and raping for them. Some politicians are devious and manipulate their way to the top. They leech off the taxpayers. Think about it: you would have to be a psychopath to do what they do and justify it. They are completely devoid of emotion. This is what makes them dangerous, perhaps more so to the U.S. than the murderers, pedophiles, and rapists already in prison.”

Not all politicians are evil, out only to please their campaign contributors. Some want to do good but are snagged in a corrupt system. Don’t leave it to those already in the system to change it. We can change the system through peaceful civil disobedience: refuse to serve the guilty, refuse to buy from the corrupt, refuse to participate in war.

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.

Aesop



Pericles

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.



In Ancient Athens, the world's first democracy, they had a process called "ostracism," where once a year the people could vote on the politician they thought was most destructive to the democratic process. The "winner" was banished from Athens for 10 years.

Ancient Greek Democracy

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.



John F. Kennedy

Never be deceived that the rich will allow you to vote away their wealth.

Lucy Parsons



There are some frauds so well conducted that it would be stupidity not to be deceived by them.

Charles Caleb Colton



If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity.

Albert Einstein



Those who believe that all virtue is to be found in their own party principles push matters to extremes; they do not consider that disproportion destroys a state.

Aristotle





We live in a world in which politics has replaced philosophy.



Martin L. Gross

Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.



Mark Twain

Politics, it seems to me, for years, or all too long, has been concerned with right or left instead of right or wrong.



Richard Armour

Take our politicians: they're a bunch of yo-yos. The presidency is now a cross between a popularity contest and a high school debate, with an encyclopedia of clichés the first prize.



Saul Bellow

Divide and rule, a sound motto.  
Unite and lead, a better one.



Johann Goethe

The U.S. voters spend 4 years protesting the injustice that big, greedy corporations have dealt them. Then come election time work themselves into a fervor in support of their political saviors who will save them from those big, greedy corporations. The sad irony is that their political saviors are owned lock, stock, and barrel by the same evil corporations they're fighting against. When people elect a politician, they're electing whoever financed her or his campaign—the power behind the power. Political campaign contributions from corporations to politicians are a form of bribery, but legal under current laws. Politicians are like actors being auctioned off—they appease the highest bidder. Another irony is that these corporations got rich by people buying their products and services. The next time you buy something, you are voting.

The power of the wallet is more powerful than the power of the ballot.



Trung Nguyen

All contributions by corporations to any political committee or for any political purpose should be forbidden by law.



Theodore Roosevelt



Aristotle

The most perfect political community is one in which the middle class is in control, and outnumbers both of the other classes.



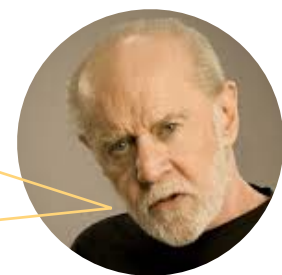
John Dalberg-Acton

The most certain test by which we judge whether a country is really free is the amount of security enjoyed by minorities.



Terence McKenna

Reclaim your mind and get it out of the hands of the cultural engineers who want to turn you into a half-baked moron consuming all this trash that's being manufactured out of the bones of a dying world.



George Carlin

I'm completely in favor of the separation of Church and State. My idea is that these two institutions screw us up enough on their own, so both of them together is certain death.



The greater the number of laws and enactments, the more thieves and robbers there will be.

Lao Tzu

Fear not those who argue but those who dodge.



Dale Carnegie

Our government teaches the whole people by its example. If the government becomes the lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy.



Louis Brandeis

In an ideal democratic society those entrusted to power should be benevolent. In practice most are selfish, corrupt, and oppressive. It's not the system that is flawed but human nature that is flawed.



Trung Nguyen

Never listen to what a politician says.  
Watch what he does.



Stephen Harper



Naturalopist

I have this radical belief that decisions that affect everyone in the world shouldn't be made in secret by government bureaucrats and corporate lobbyists.

Any individual who is able to raise \$25 million to be considered presidential is not going to be much use to the people at large. He will represent oil, or aerospace, or banking, or whatever moneyed entities are paying for him. Certainly he will never represent the people of the country, and they know it. Hence, the sense of despair throughout the land as income falls, businesses fail and there is no redress.



Gore Vidal

In politics, stupidity is not a handicap.



Napoleon Bonaparte



Power tends to corrupt, and  
absolute power corrupts absolutely.



John Dalberg-Acton

It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often  
bend the acts of government to their own selfish purposes.



Andrew Jackson



Harry Browne

Government is good at one thing: It knows how to break  
your legs, hand you a crutch, and say, "See, if it weren't  
for the government, you would be able to walk."

There's an old country saying: The water won't clear  
up until you get the hogs out of the creek.



Byron Dorgan

The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum.



Noam Chomsky

It is necessary that laws should be passed to prohibit the use of corporate funds directly or indirectly for political purposes. It is still more necessary that such laws should be thoroughly enforced. I again recommend a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign expenses of any party. Such a bill has already passed on House of Congress. Let individuals contribute as they desire; but let us prohibit in effective fashion all corporations from akin contributions for any political purpose, directly or indirectly.



Theodore Roosevelt

I weep for the liberty of my country when I see at this early day of its successful experiment that corruption has been imputed to many members of the House of Representatives, and the rights of the people have been bartered for promises of office.



Andrew Jackson

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.



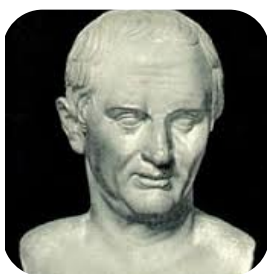
Plato

## TRAITOR: THE PERSON TO BE MOST SCORNE

A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly.

But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men.

The traitor rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear.



**Cicero**

# MILITARY

## **military**

warmongering, aggression, fighting, militaristic, warlike

1. Relating to armed forces such as the army, marines, navy and air force (often as distinguished from civilians or police forces).
2. Relating to war.

The Egyptian Empire, the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great's Empire, the Roman Empire, Genghis Khan's Empire, Napoleon's Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the British Empire, Hitler's Third Reich, and the Soviet Union have all collapsed. And soon the American Empire will follow. History repeats itself. Politicians and generals never learn from history.

Force has never and will never conquer people. Military conquests are fleeting and the conquerors are eventually scattered, absorbed, or mated into the minority in the conquered lands. Moreover, over the centuries, the conquered eventually inhabit the homelands of the conquerors. This is cosmic karma.

To conquer people, spread culture, ideas, peace, food, entertainment, systems and methods...conquer their minds.

We don't want a war. We just want to work, live peacefully, and feed our family.



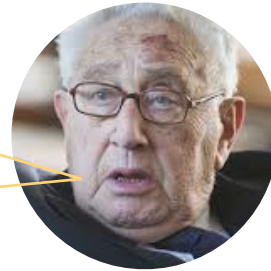
Ukrainian Grandmother in Crimea

Those who know the least obey the best.



George Farquhar

Military men are dumb, stupid animals to be used as pawns for foreign policy.



Henry Kissinger

Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding.



Ralph Waldo Emerson



There was never a good war, or a bad peace.

Benjamin Franklin



In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.



Dwight Eisenhower

What is legal is not always just nor beneficial to society—war is the perfect example of this. Everything Hitler did was legal under German law at the time.



Trung Nguyen

War is organized murder, and nothing else.

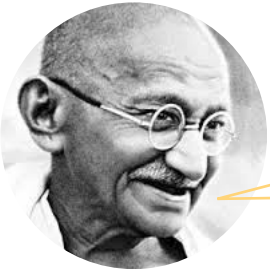


Harry Patch

Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the Government take care of him, better take a closer look at the American Indian.



Henry Ford



First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

Mahatma Gandhi

Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind.



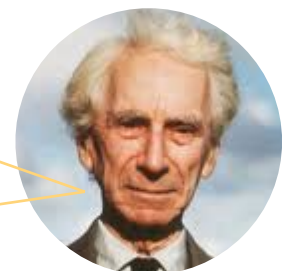
John F. Kennedy



A society whose citizens refuse to see and investigate the facts, who refuse to believe that their government and their media will routinely lie to them and fabricate a reality contrary to verifiable facts, is a society that chooses and deserves the Police State Dictatorship it's going to get.

Ian Willaims Goddard

War does not determine who is right—only who is left.



Bertrand Russell



Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

Smedley D. Butler



Force is all-conquering, but its victories are short-lived.

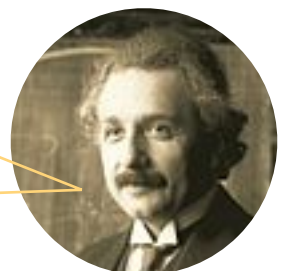
Abraham Lincoln

Give me the money that has been spent in war and I will clothe every man, woman, and child in an attire of which kings and queens will be proud. I will build a schoolhouse in every valley over the whole earth. I will crown every hillside with a place of worship consecrated to peace.



Charles Sumner

The release of atom power has changed everything except our way of thinking. The solution to this problem lies in the heart of mankind. If only I had known, I should have become a watchmaker.



Albert Einstein

The direct use of force is such a poor solution to any problem, it is generally employed only by small children and large nations.



David Friedman



A great war leaves the country with three armies—an army of cripples, an army of mourners, and an army of thieves.

German Proverb

The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.



Omar Bradley

What a cruel thing is war: to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world.



Robert E. Lee

All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal.

John Steinbeck



Emergencies have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded.

Friedrich August von Hayek



War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children.



Jimmy Carter

Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.



Friedrich Nietzsche



The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.



Confucius

Security for one is security for all.



Vladimir Putin



War is only possible because soldiers make it so—men killing men they've never met, for the rich and politicians they learn to detest later in life. When ordered to fight when their nation is not under attack, every soldier should exercise their right as a conscientious objector.

Trung Nguyen

History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives.



Abba Eban

Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.



Sun Tzu

The greatest moral evil is, of course, war.



Voltaire

The ebb and flow of history has demonstrated that militaristic nations produce far fewer offsprings than peaceful nations. Examine the modern populations of Greece, Iran, Italy, and Mongolia to those that of India, China, and the African continent. The Greek, Persian, Roman, and Mongolian empires are history. Whereby the progeny of meek and peaceful civilizations have multiplied and make up most of Earth's citizens. As for the Spanish and British empires, their offsprings are being mated into the minority on every land they have colonized. Even their homelands are being overrun by former colonial subjects. This is Karma in action.

Nature is telling us that She prefers peace over war. She will disperse and dissolve and breed the aggressors into the minority or out of existence. The U.S.A. and European colonists should heed Nature's preference.



Trung Nguyen

The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.



Sun Tzu



Supreme excellence consists of breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting.

Sun Tzu



If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.

Sun Tzu

Rouse him, and learn the principle of his activity or inactivity. Force him to reveal himself, so as to find out his vulnerable spots.



Sun Tzu



There is no instance of a nation benefitting from prolonged warfare.

Sun Tzu

To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill.



Sun Tzu



Who wishes to fight must first count the cost.

Sun Tzu



Sun Tzu

If your enemy is secure at all points, be prepared for him. If he is in superior strength, evade him. If your opponent is temperamental, seek to irritate him. Pretend to be weak, that he may grow arrogant. If he is taking his ease, give him no rest. If his forces are united, separate them. If sovereign and subject are in accord, put division between them. Attack him where he is unprepared, appear where you are not expected.



The whole secret lies in confusing the enemy, so that he cannot fathom our real intent.

Sun Tzu

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.



G.K. Chesterton

The best weapon against an enemy is another enemy.



Friedrich Nietzsche

War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.



Smedley D. Butler

When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die.



Jean-Paul Sartre





Patriotism is, fundamentally, a conviction that a particular country is the best in the world because you were born in it.

George Bernard Shaw



A soldier will fight long and hard for a bit of colored ribbon.

Napoleon Bonaparte

There are only two reasons why you should ever be asked to give your youngsters. One is defense of our homes. The other is the defense of our Bill of Rights and particularly the right to worship as we see fit. Every other reason advanced for the murder of young men is a racket, pure and simple.



Smedley D. Butler

Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both.



Abraham Flexner

## WAR IS A RACKET

War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses. I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag. I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" to point out enemies, its "muscle men" to destroy enemies, its "brain men" to plan war preparations, and a "Big Boss" Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism. It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty- three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle- man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service. I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.



During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.

### **Major General Smedley D. Butler**

Two-time Medal of Honor winner

The most decorated marine of his time (1881-1940)

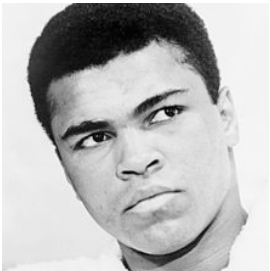
One of the most decorated soldiers of all time

Author of “War Is a Racket”

## A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No I'm not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over. This is the day when such evils must come to an end. I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars.

But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is here. I will not disgrace my religion, my people or myself by becoming a tool to enslave those who are fighting for their own justice, freedom and equality. If I thought the war was going to bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people they wouldn't have to draft me, I'd join tomorrow. I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. So I'll go to jail, so what? We've been in jail for 400 years.



**Muhammad Ali**

# FREEDOM

## **freedom**

right, self-determination, self-rule, independence

1. The state of being free, of not being imprisoned or enslaved.
2. The lack of a specific constraint, or of constraints in general; a state of being free, unconstrained.

Freedom is a legal right and not a privilege, since it is enjoyed mostly by those in democratic societies. However, basic freedoms that should be afforded to every person of every nation are enclosed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution:

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

In essence: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to practice religion, and freedom to peacefully protest and demonstrate. It should be noted that the U.S. Constitution (1787) borrowed many ideals from the Magna Carta (British, Great Charter of Liberties, 1215). However, one of the oldest recorded documents espousing universal human rights was the Cyrus Cylinder, believed to have been drafted in 6th century BC by the Persian King Cyrus the Great. Freedom is a universal theme throughout history.

The sole purpose of government is to nurture and serve its people, not to oppress and exploit them. A government that no longer serves its people fears them, and a government that fears its people is a government to be overthrown. First, by peaceful demonstration and activism through the political process; second, by civil disobedience



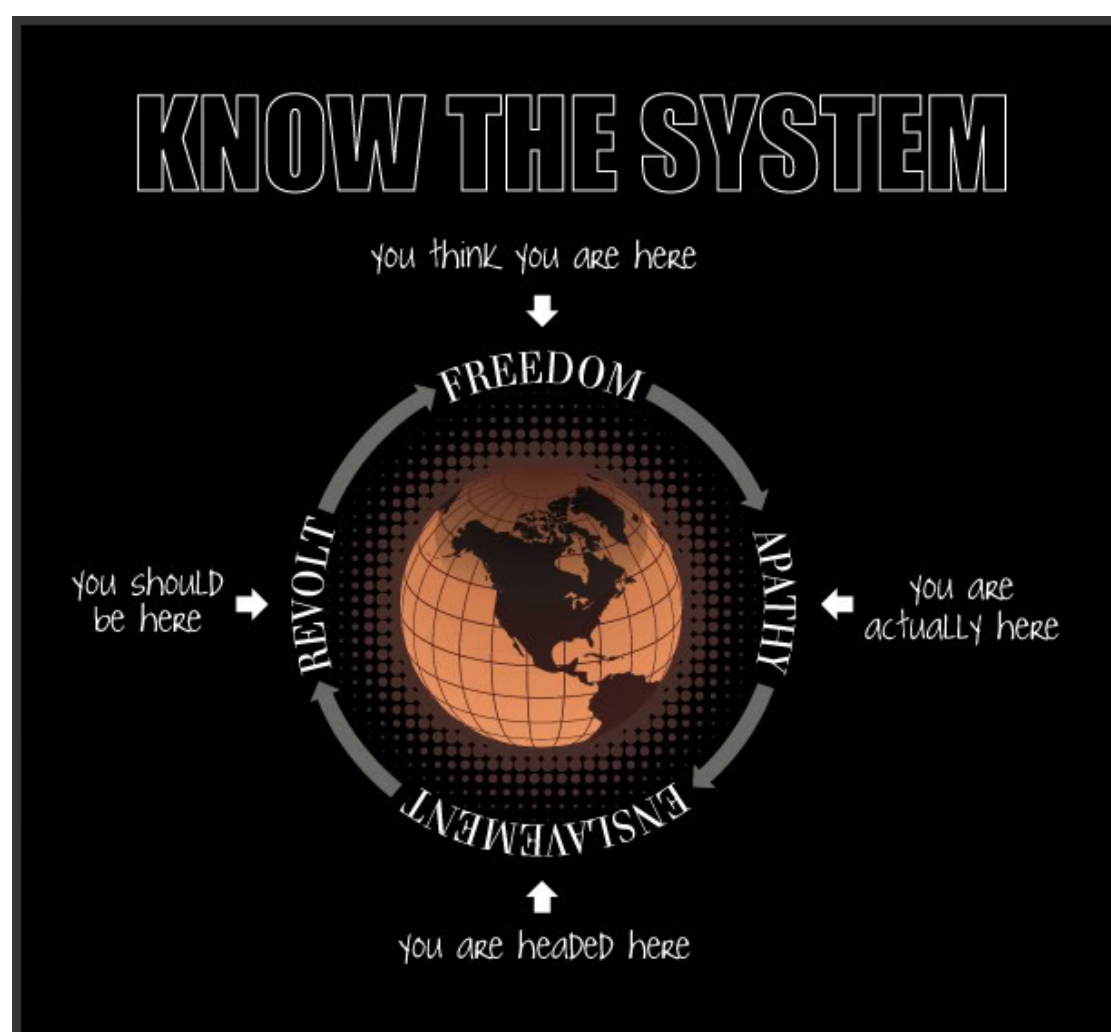
through refuse to serve (denial of service), boycotts, groups, and unions; finally, if required, by all means necessary.

A government that monitors and spies on its citizens, restricts their expression and movement, is a tyrannical government. Any government that denies its citizens basic freedoms is governing for its own benefit, not for the common good of its people.

History is rife with recorded rebellions, revolutions (revolts), and civil wars dating back to the Set rebellion of 2,740 BC in Egypt. Some of the more well-known revolutions are the British Peasant Revolt, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the American Revolution, and the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Revolutions are expected when governments suppress or deny basic freedoms to their peoples.

Despite what history has demonstrated over 2,000 years, the disturbing question is, “Why do certain groups of people still insist on oppressing or enslaving their fellow humans?”

In the long arc of time, a nation is safe and secure only when its people are afforded basic freedoms. When people are given their natural rights, they will work and die for their government because the government represents the people. It is the people.



Freedom isn't free. It shouldn't be a bragging point that, "Oh, I don't get involved in politics," as if that makes someone cleaner. No, that makes your derelict of duty in a republic. Liars and panderers in government would have a much harder time of it if so many people didn't insist on their right to remain ignorant and blindly agreeable.



Bill Maher

Responsibility is the price of freedom.



Elbert Hubbard

I'd rather die on my feet than live on my knees.



Emiliano Salazar

Men fight for freedom, then they begin to accumulate laws to take it away from themselves.



Ritu Ghatourey

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.



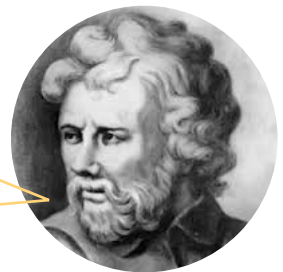
Abraham Lincoln



Jim Morrison

The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are. You trade in your reality for a role. You trade in your sense for an act. You give up your ability to feel, and in exchange, put on a mask. There can't be any large-scale revolution until there's a personal revolution, on an individual level. It's got to happen inside first.

Happiness and freedom begin with a clear understanding of one principle: some things are within your control and some things are not.



Epictetus



Desmond Tutu

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

Freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want. Freedom is the strength of character to do what is good, true, noble, and right.



Matthew Kelly

Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect.



Eleanor Roosevelt

Life is about proving yourself. Being an individual. Refuse to conform. Be different. Be who you are. Be proud. Don't let others bring you down. Love yourself. It's the only way to survive in this world. Your choices matter, your actions make a difference; your example will influence others. Be free to be who you want as long as you don't hurt anyone. That is freedom.



Naturalopist

People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.



Søren Kierkegaard

I know where I'm going and I know the truth,  
and I don't have to be what you want me to be.  
I'm free to be what I want.



Muhammad Ali



I don't think it's about more gun control. I grew up  
in the south with guns everywhere and we never  
shot anyone. This shooting is about people who  
aren't taught the value of human life.

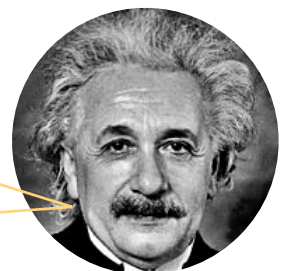
Samuel L. Jackson



The government does not want us to expand our consciousness. If we  
begin to recognize that we are powerful souls that create our reality,  
it will take away their power to enslave us. This is why there is fluo-  
ride in the water, chemtrails in the sky reflecting HAARP energy to  
affect our minds, aspartame in our food, and GMOs. This is why we  
are bombarded with distractions to keep our minds occupied with  
things that don't matter, they don't want us to think at all.

Terrence McKenna

Everything which is really great and inspiring is cre-  
ated by the individual who can labour in freedom.



Albert Einstein

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.



Ralph Waldo Emerson

Seek freedom and become captive of your desires, seek discipline and find your liberty.



Frank Herbert

The really important kind of freedom involves attention, and awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day.



David Foster Wallace

I know but one freedom and that is the freedom of the mind.



Antoine de Saint-Exupery



The greatest fear in the world is of the opinions of others. And the moment you are unafraid of the crowd you are no longer a sheep, you become a lion. A great lion roar arises in your heart, the roar of freedom.



Rajneesh



True freedom is impossible without a mind made free by discipline.

Mortimer J. Adler

Normal is getting dressed in clothes that you buy for work and driving through traffic in a car that you are still paying for—in order to get the job you need to pay for the clothes and the car, and the house you leave vacant all day so you can afford to live in it.



Ellen Goodman



I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will.

Charlotte Brontë



The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

Thomas Jefferson



John Lennon

When it gets down to having to use violence, then you are playing the system's game. The establishment will irritate you, pull your beard, flick your face to make you fight. Because once they've got you violent, then they know how to handle you. The only thing they don't know how to handle is non-violence and humour.



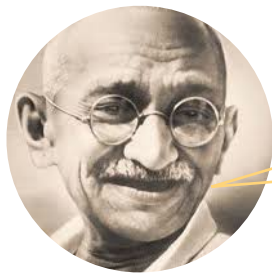
Benjamin Franklin

Only virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.



Naturalopist

Doing what you like is freedom.  
Liking what you do is happiness.



Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

Mahatma Ghandi



You were born free and will die free, but will you live free?

Naturalopist



The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Expose yourself to your deepest fear; after that, fear has no power, and the fear of freedom shrinks and vanishes.

You are free.



Jim Morrison



Most powerful is he who has himself in his own power.

Seneca

Nobody can give you freedom. Nobody can give you equality or justice or anything. If you're a man, you take it.



Malcolm X



Better to die fighting for freedom than be a prisoner all the days of your life.

Bob Marley

If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every citizen to be informed.



Thomas Jefferson

## FIRST THEY CAME

When the Nazis came for the communists,  
I remained silent because I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats,  
I remained silent because I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists,  
I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews,  
I remained silent because I was not a Jew.

When they came for me,  
there was no one left to speak for me.



**Martin Niemöller**

## FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE

Commercial interests with their advertising industry do not want people to develop contentment and less greed. Military interests in economic, political, ethnic or nationalist guises, do not want people to develop more tolerance, nonviolence and compassion. And ruling groups in general, in whatever sort of hierarchy do not want the ruled to become too insightful, too independent, too creative on their own, as the danger is that they will become insubordinate, rebellious, and unproductive in their allotted tasks.



**Martin Robert**

# ORIGIN

## **evolution**

change, growth, development, progression, transformation, natural process

1. The change in the genetic composition of a population over successive generations.

## **abiogenesis**

spontaneous order, spontaneous generation

1. The natural process of life arising from non-living matter such as simple inorganic compounds.

The origin of life debate consists of two camps: Evolutionists versus Creationists. Or science versus religion, abiogenesis versus biogenesis, empirical evidence versus myth, and Darwinism versus Creationism. These theories are incompatible with each other. In many cases, they contradict each other. However, there is only one truth.

Creationists believe that roughly 6,000 - 10, 000 years ago, god created the Universe and Earth in 6 days and rested on the 7th day, thus Sunday. Creationists also believe in biogenesis—that only living organisms can create other living organisms. Creationists point to the Periodic Table of the Elements, in which all the elements that make up the Universe are inorganic (not living matter, not biological). Therefore, if everything in the Universe is made of inorganic elements, how did organic (biological) life originate from lifeless matter? Creationists also point to the astounding large odds to dismiss the theory of entropy (randomness). Creationists also point to the “missing link” in the theory of evolution—if humans evolved from apes, then why are apes still around?

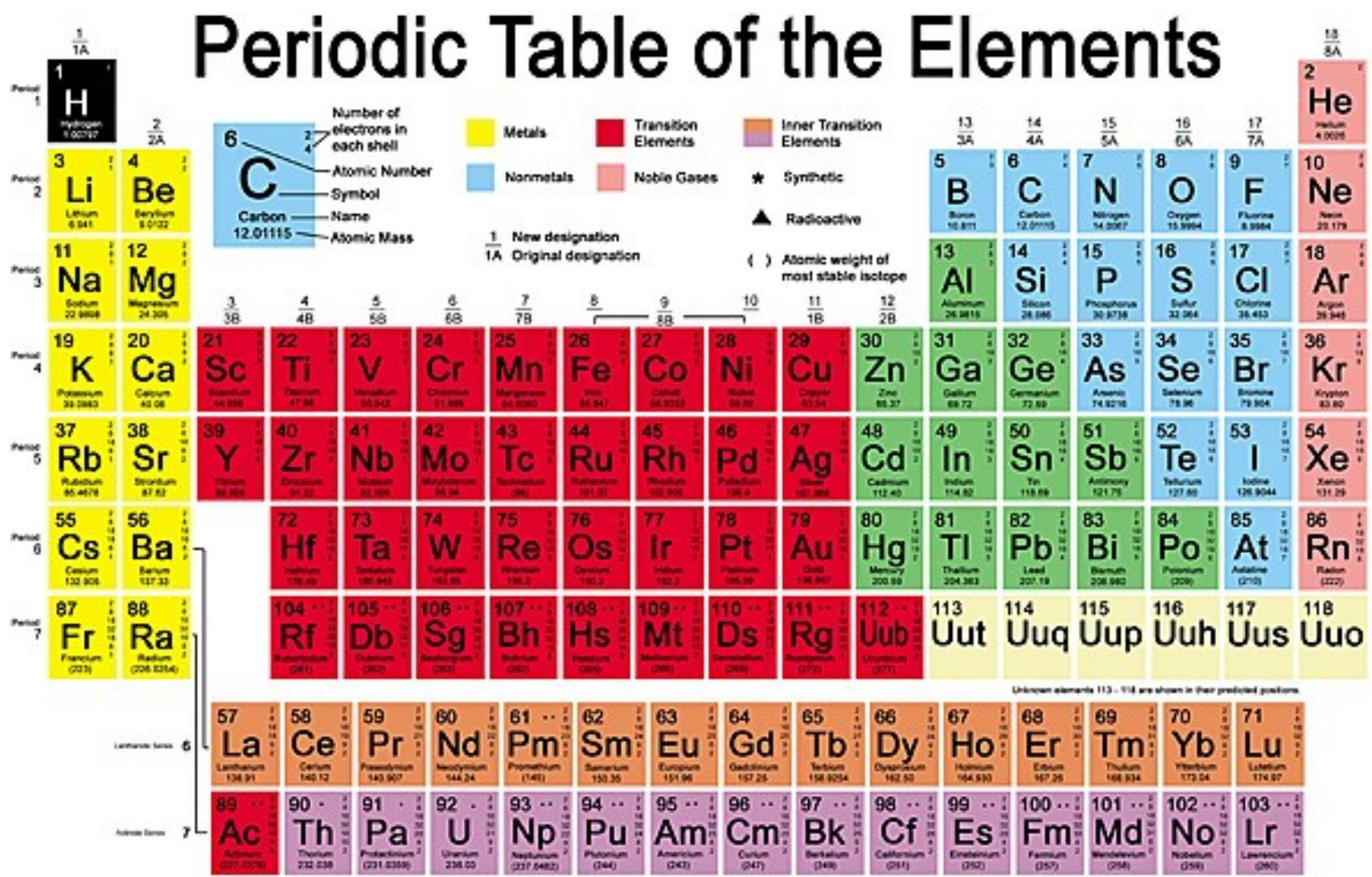


entropy

decay, breakup, randomness, degeneration, disorder

- 1. In thermodynamics, entropy (usual symbol S) is a measure of the number of specific ways in which a thermodynamic system may be arranged, commonly understood as a measure of disorder.
- 2. The tendency of a system that is left to itself to descend into chaos; uncountable.

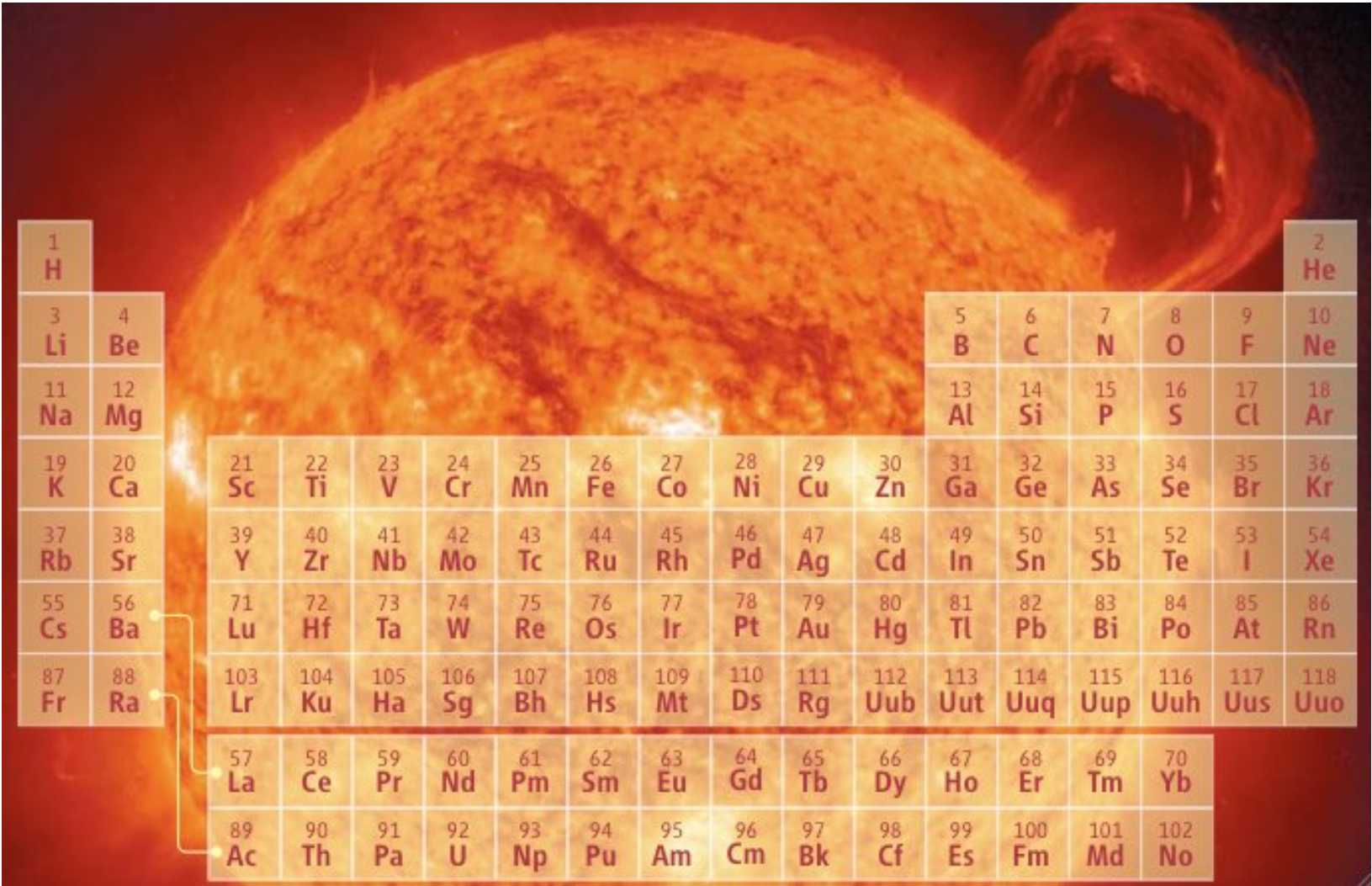
Note the Periodic Table of the Elements below. It is believed that everything in the cosmos, including humans, is made of the elements listed below. Elements, such as hydrogen and oxygen, are made of atoms; which in turn are made of electrons, protons, and neutrons; which in turn are made of quarks; which in turn are made of the Higgs Boson elemental particle, or particles. For example, the content of the Sun is 71% hydrogen (H) and 27.1% helium (He). In the fantastically hot furnace of the Sun’ core, hy-





drogen and helium (both elements) are fused into heavier elements, such as oxygen(O), carbon(C), nitrogen(N), silicon(Si), magnesium(Mg), neon(Ne), sulfur(S), and iron(Fe). This is an example of how small things become big things in an entropic system, and how simple things become complex things.

When a star, such as our Sun, explodes (supervnova, dies), it gets unimaginably hot and in the process, heavier elements are created, giving birth to asteroids, moons, plan-

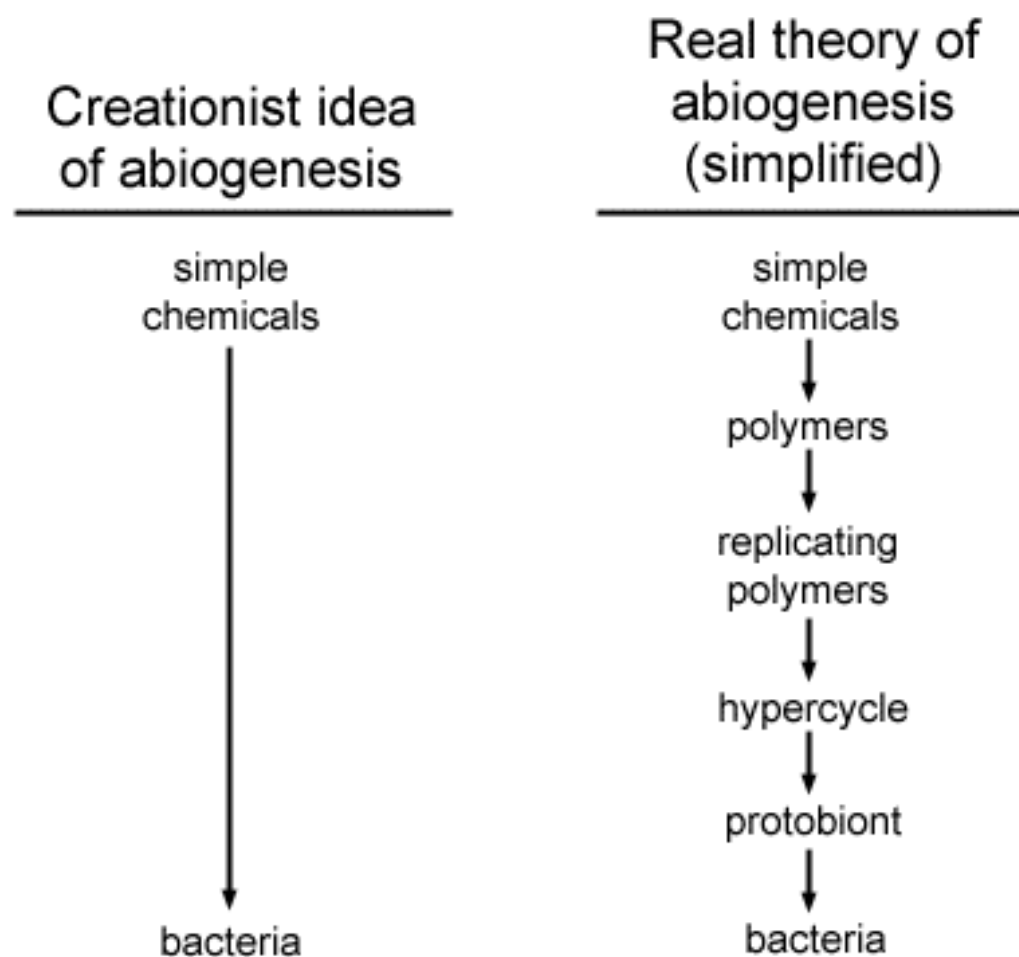


ets, and sometimes new stars. From the inner workings of the Sun, we see a common pattern: given enough time and with the right energy and condition, smaller things become bigger things and simple things become complex things.

However, if everything in the cosmos is made of inorganic elements, how is it possible that biological lifeforms such as plants and humans originated from those lifeless matter? This is the abiogenesis versus biogenesis debate. Creationists believe in biogenesis—that only organic organisms can give life to other organic organisms.

Again, when small things are left alone, with enough time, energy, and entropy working for them, small things become bigger, complex things. Small things amalgamate,

fuse, rearrange, synthesize, and even reproduce. For example, a common compound is water (H<sub>2</sub>O), which is made of two elements: hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O).



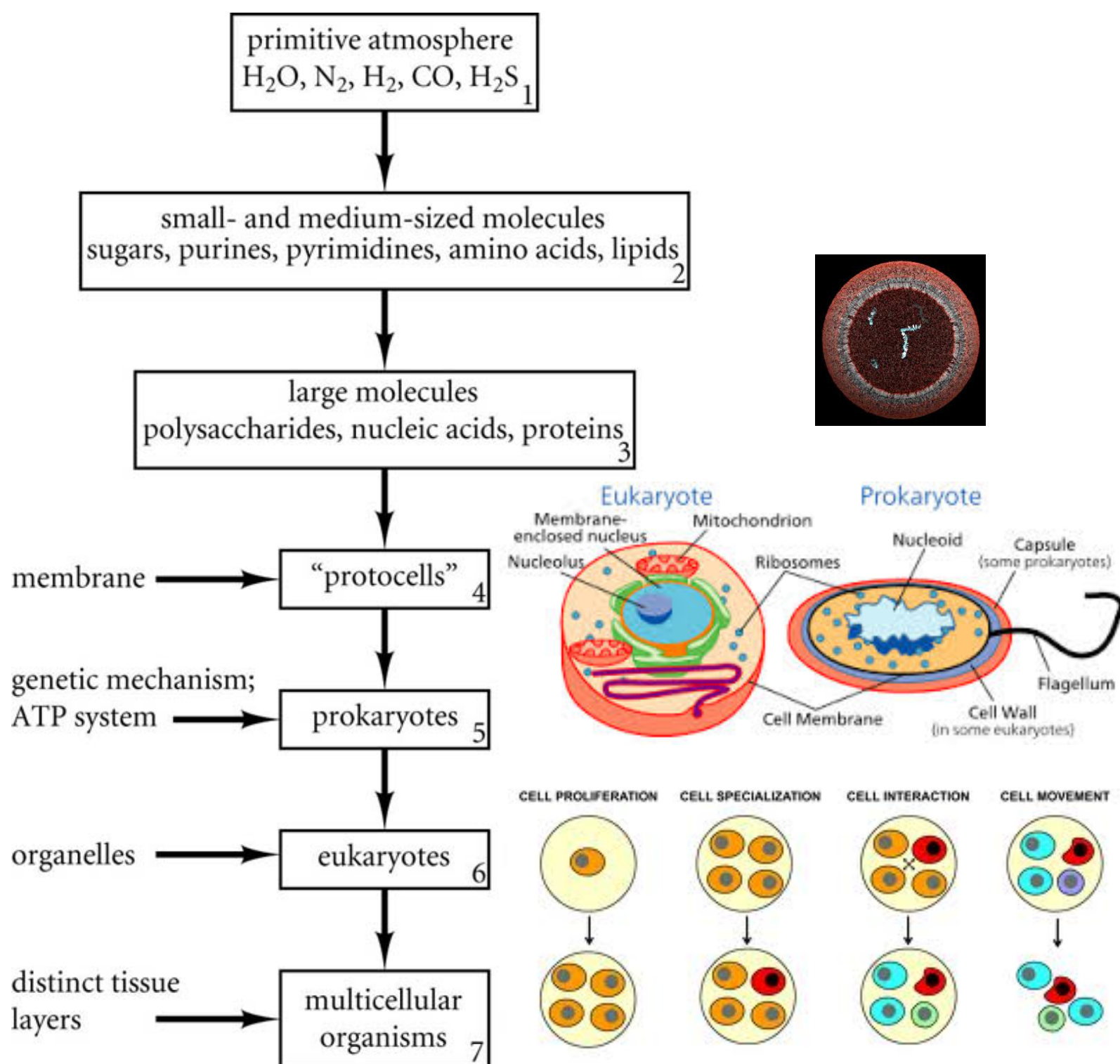
We are infinitesimally small in the infinitely massive cosmos. Our concept of time is in days, weeks, months, and decades—any period longer than eight decades is history to most of us. This is how eighty years looks like: 80 years. Now, imagine 3.55 billion years, or 4.55 billion years, or 13.7 billion years:

- 80 years (average lifespan of many humans)
- 3, 550, 000, 000 years (estimated age of first organic, multicellular organism)
- 4, 550, 000, 000 years (age of Earth)
- 13, 780, 000, 000 years (age of Universe)

We have no personal point of reference or any way to comprehend the staggering expanse of “billions” of years. We only say the billions as a number with a decimal. But behind those billions of years are the processes of entropy and abiogenesis at work. Then add **energy** from radiation, lightning, volcanic eruption, or other energy sources and we have the blueprint for our genetic material.

With enough time, elements amalgamate into simple-inorganic compounds, simple compounds into complex compounds; when energy is added, inorganic compounds turn into organic compounds, organic compounds into molecules, molecules into cells, cells into microbes; microbes and cells into tissues, tissues into organs, organs into multiple organs; into small species, and eventually into humans. It is estimated that the human body has about 100 trillion cells, which varies depending on the mass of the person.

Just like the Sun is comprised of smaller parts, the human body is also comprised of smaller parts. These smaller parts of the Sun and the human body have their beginnings from the Periodical Table of the Elements. And with the blessing of time, entropy, and energy, those elements evolved to form complex, organic matter.





# Darwin's Theory Of Evolution—The Premise



Darwin's Theory of Evolution is the widely held notion that all life is related and has descended from a common ancestor: the birds and the bananas, the fishes and the flowers—all related. Darwin's general theory presumes the development of life from non-life and stresses a purely naturalistic (undirected) “descent with modification”. That is, complex creatures evolve from more simplistic ancestors naturally over time. In a nutshell, as random genetic mutations occur within an organism's genetic code, the beneficial mutations are preserved because they aid survival—a process known as “natural selection.” These beneficial mutations are passed on to the next generation. Over time, beneficial mutations accumulate and the result is an entirely different organism (not just a variation of the original, but an entirely different creature). —[www.darwins-theory-of-evolution.com](http://www.darwins-theory-of-evolution.com)

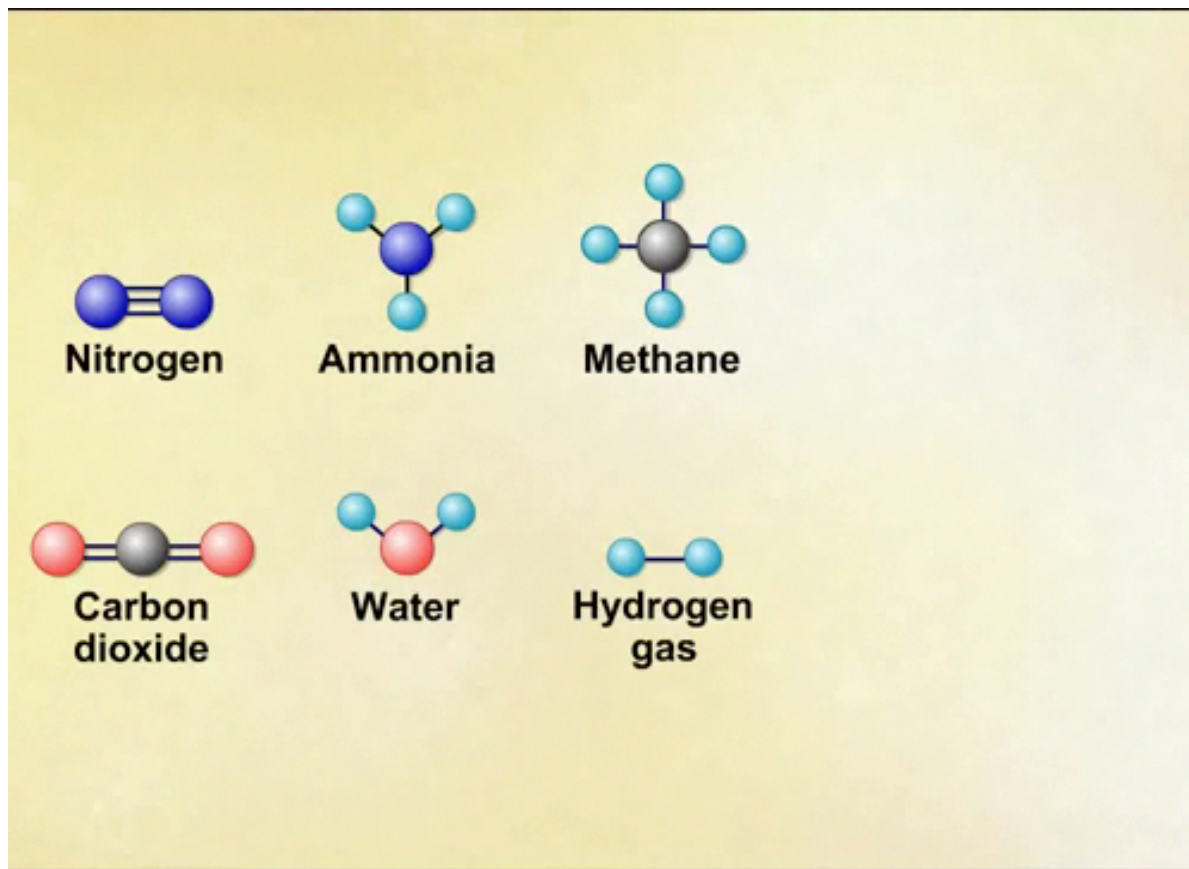
## The Missing Link

Creationists point to a perceived flaw in Darwin's theory of evolution: If humans evolved from apes, then why are apes still around? Darwin's theory postulates that humans shared a common ancestor as apes—we did not directly evolve from apes. Therefore, there is no missing link.

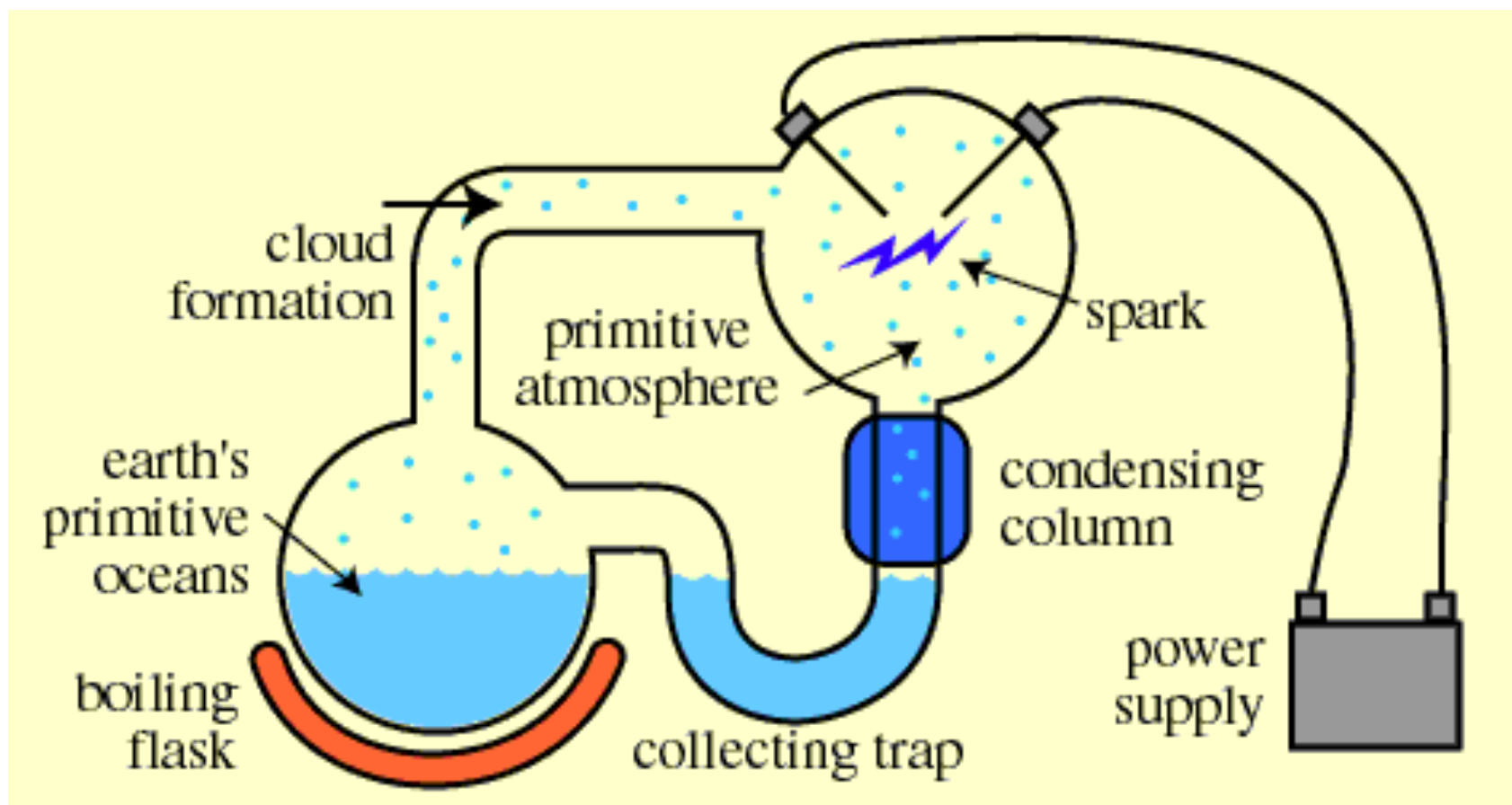
## The God Dilemma

We are infinitesimally small in an unimaginably massive cosmos. If there were a god, it would have to be bigger than unimaginably big to have created the Universe and everything in it. If there were a god in this staggering immensity of existence, who is arrogant or delusional enough to think that god would care for her or him? This god, or intelligent designer, would have to be incomprehensibly powerful and its domain so immeasurably vast, that it would not care what we thought of it either way.

## Video: Urey-Miller Experiment, 1953



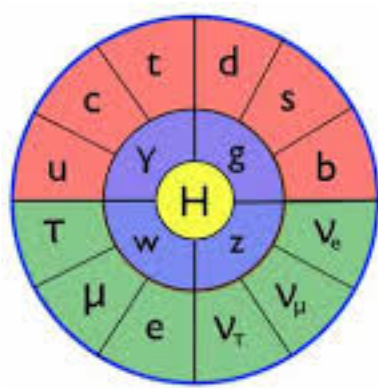
Turning the inorganic into the organic. Video courtesy of Dr. Prodigious HD Animations.





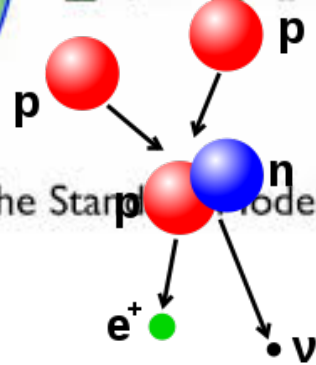




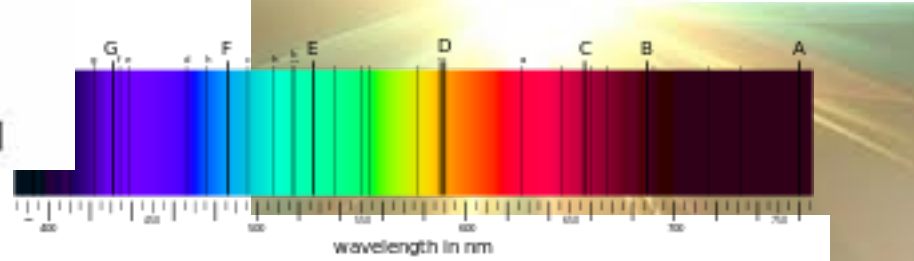
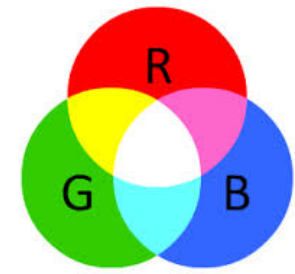
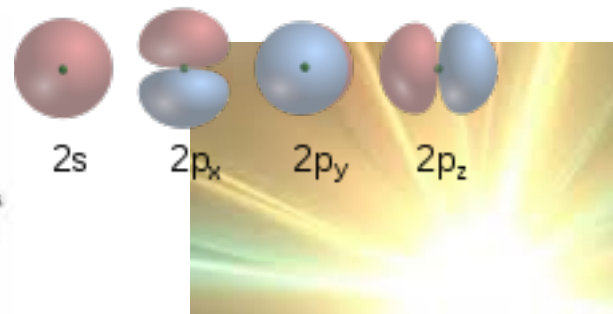


**Fermions**  
Matter  
Quarks  
Leptons

**Bosons**  
Force Carriers  
Gauge bosons  
Higgs boson



Particles of the Standard Model



GROUP 1

1

H

hydrogen

[1.007 - 1.009]

2

3

Li

lithium

[6.938 - 6.997]

4

Be

beryllium

9.012

11

Na

sodium

22.99

12

Mg

magnesium

24.31

19

K

potassium

39.10

20

Ca

calcium

40.08

21

Sc

scandium

44.96

22

Ti

titanium

47.87

23

V

vanadium

50.94

24

Cr

chromium

52.00

25

Mn

manganese

54.94

26

Fe

iron

55.85

27

Co

cobalt

58.93

28

Ni

nickel

58.69

29

Cu

copper

63.55

30

Zn

zinc

65.38

31

Ga

gallium

69.72

32

Ge

germanium

72.63

33

As

arsenic

74.92

34

Se

selenium

78.96

35

Br

bromine

79.90

36

Kr

krypton

83.80

37

Rb

rubidium

85.47

38

Sr

strontium

87.62

39

Y

yttrium

88.91

40

Zr

zirconium

91.22

41

Nb

niobium

92.91

42

Mo

molybdenum

95.94

43

Tc

technetium

(98)

44

Ru

ruthenium

101.1

45

Rh

rhodium

102.9

46

Pd

palladium

106.4

47

Ag

silver

107.9

48

Cd

cadmium

112.4

49

In

indium

114.8

50

Sn

tin

118.7

51

Sb

antimony

121.8

52

Te

tellurium

127.6

53

I

iodine

126.9

54

Xe

xenon

131.3

55

Cs

cesium

132.9

56

Ba

barium

137.3

57-71

lanthanoids

72

Hf

hafnium

178.5

73

Ta

tantalum

180.9

74

W

tungsten

183.8

75

Re

rhenium

186.2

76

Os

osmium

190.2

77

Ir

iridium

192.2

78

Pt

platinum

195.1

79

Au

gold

197.0

80

Hg

mercury

200.6

81

Tl

thallium

[204.3 - 204.4]

82

Pb

lead

207.2

83

Bi

bismuth

209.0

84

Po

polonium

(210)

85

At

astatine

(210)

86

Rn

radon

(222)

87

Fr

francium

(223)

88

Ra

radium

(226)

89-103

actinoids

104

Rf

rutherfordium

(261)

105

Db

dubnium

(262)

106

Sg

seaborgium

(266)

107

Bh

bohrium

(264)

108

Hs

hassium

(277)

109

Mt

meitnerium

(268)

110

Ds

darmstadtium

(271)

111

Rg

roentgenium

(272)

112

Cn

copernicium

(285)

113

Uut

ununtrium

(284)

114

Uuq

ununquadium

(289)

115

Uup

ununpentium

(288)

116

Uuh

ununhexium

(292)

117

Uus

ununseptium

(294)

118

Uuo

ununoctium

(294)

GROUP 18

18

He

helium

4.003

10

Ne

neon

20.18

18

Ar

argon

39.95

36

Kr

krypton

83.80

54

Xe

xenon

131.3

86

Rn

radon

(222)

atomic number

white text = gas state at 0 °C

chemical symbol

chemical name

standard atomic weight  
(lower - upper) bounds  
(if not in stable isotopes)

26

Fe

iron

55.85

Element Categories

actinoids

alkali metals

alkaline metals

other metals

transition metals

lanthanoids

metalloids

nonmetals

halogens

noble gases

unknown elements

Electron Configuration Blocks

s

d

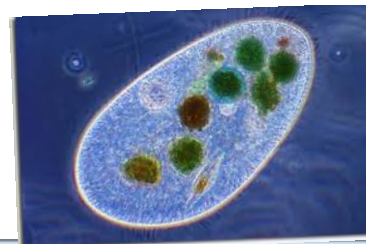
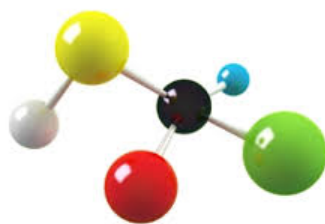
p

f

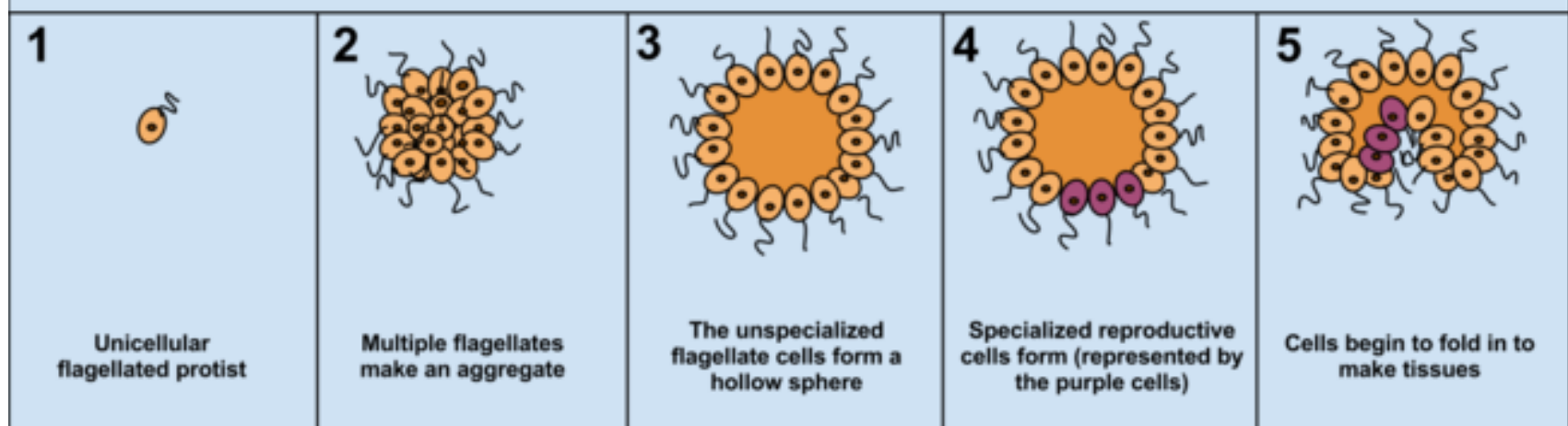
**Natural Occurrence**

- primordial
- from decay
- synthetic

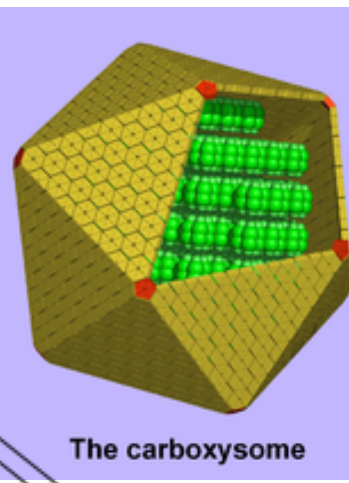
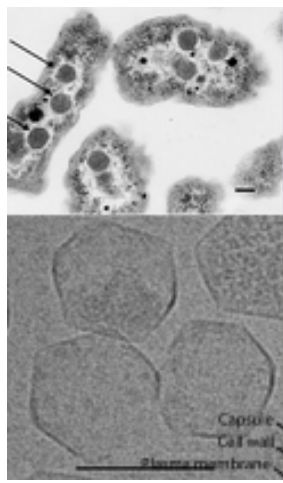
57 <b>La</b> lanthanum 138.9	58 <b>Ce</b> cerium 140.1	59 <b>Pr</b> praseodymium 140.9	60 <b>Nd</b> neodymium 144.2	61 <b>Pm</b> promethium (145)	62 <b>Sm</b> samarium 150.4	63 <b>Eu</b> europium 152.0	64 <b>Gd</b> gadolinium 157.3	65 <b>Tb</b> terbium 158.9	66 <b>Dy</b> dysprosium 162.5	67 <b>Ho</b> holmium 164.9	68 <b>Er</b> erbium 167.3	69 <b>Tm</b> thulium 168.9	70 <b>Yb</b> ytterbium 173.1	71 <b>Lu</b> lutetium 175.0
89 <b>Ac</b> actinium (227)	90 <b>Th</b> thorium 232.0	91 <b>Pa</b> protactinium 231.0	92 <b>U</b> uranium 238.0	93 <b>Np</b> neptunium (237)	94 <b>Pu</b> plutonium (244)	95 <b>Am</b> americium (243)	96 <b>Cm</b> curium (247)	97 <b>Bk</b> berkelium (247)	98 <b>Cf</b> californium (251)	99 <b>Es</b> einsteinium (252)	100 <b>Fm</b> fermium (257)	101 <b>Md</b> mendelevium (258)	102 <b>No</b> nobelium (259)	103 <b>Lr</b> lawrencium (262)



## Colonial Flagellate Hypothesis

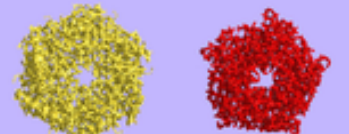




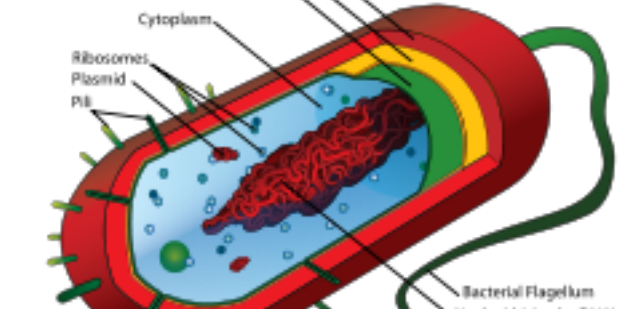


# Enzymes and shell proteins

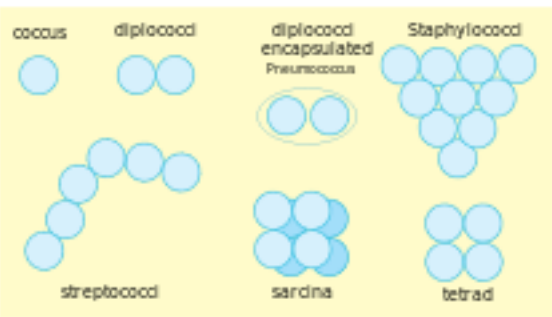
RuBisCO



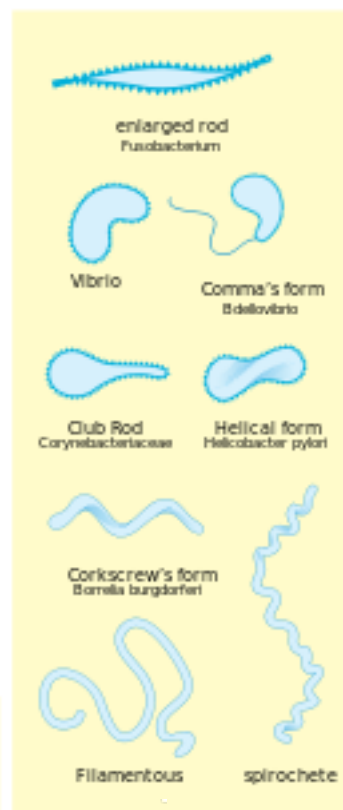
## The carboxysome



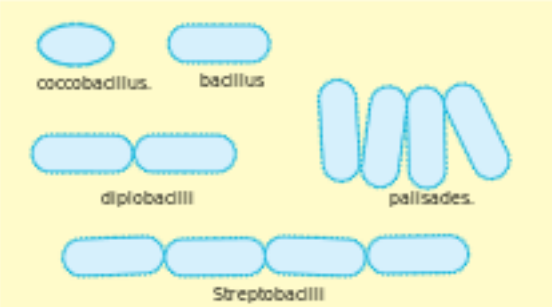
## Cocci



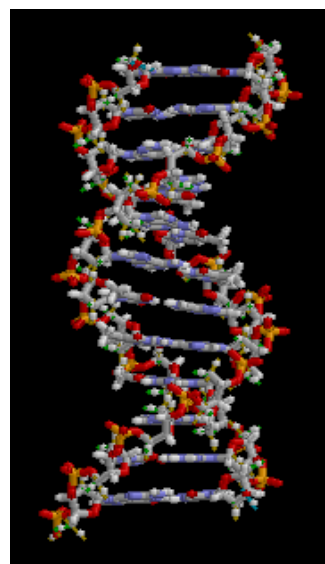
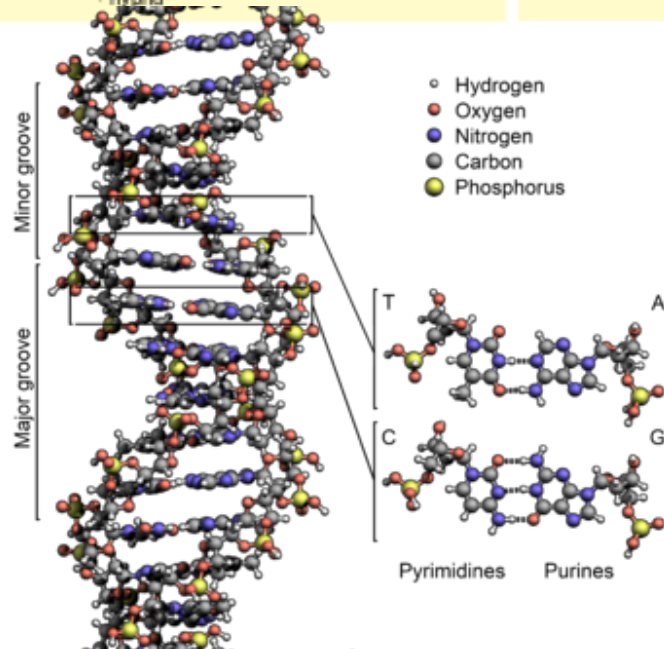
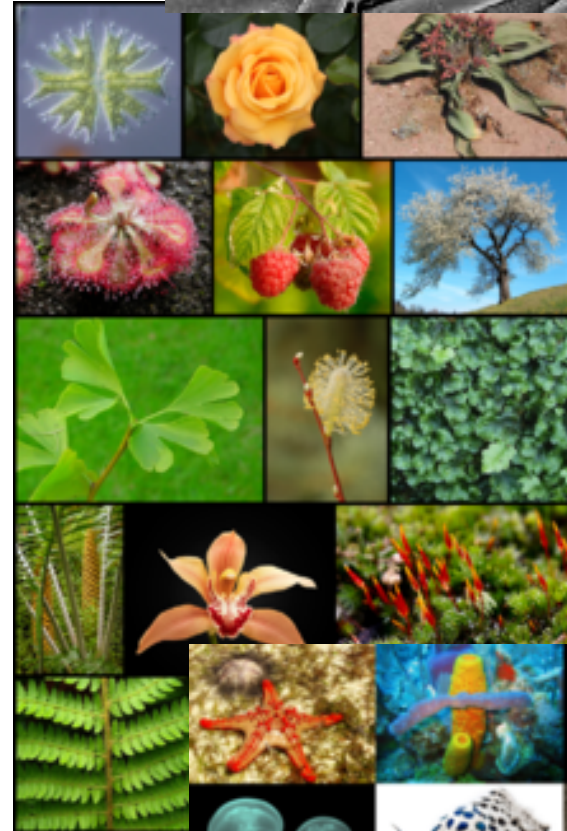
## Others



## Bacilli



## Budding and appendaged bacteria







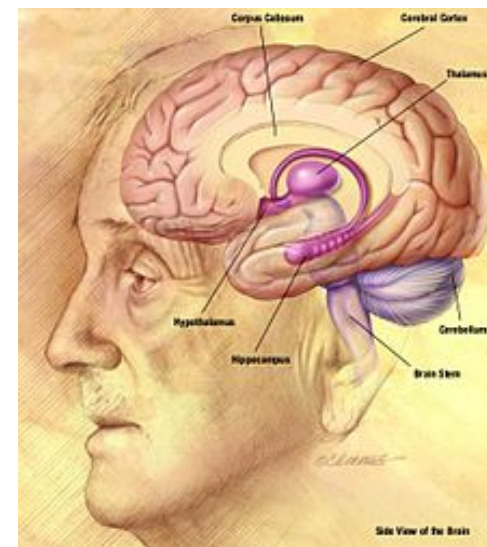
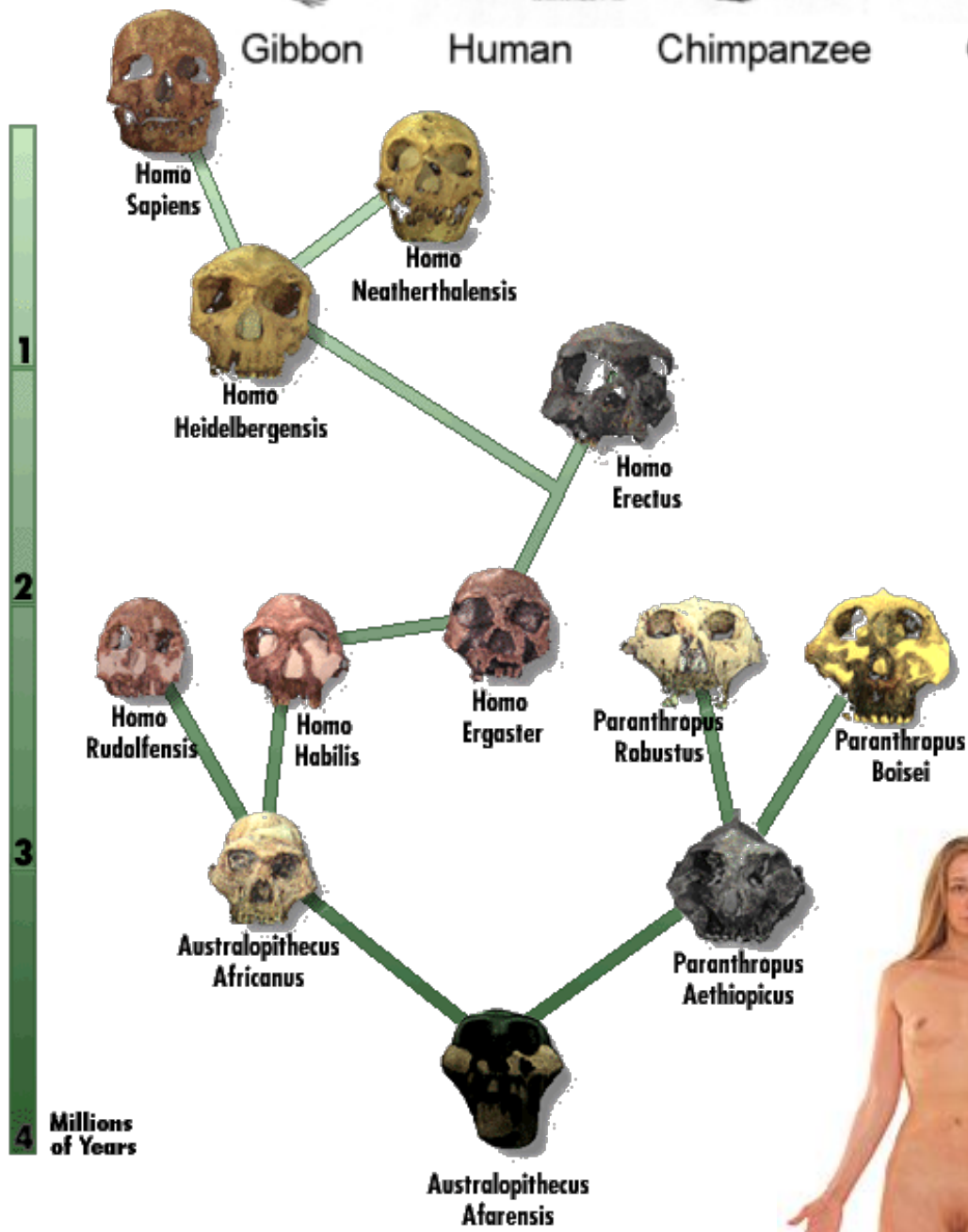
Gibbon

Human

Chimpanzee

Gorilla

Orangutan



## THE PALE BLUE DOT

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great  
enveloping cosmic dark...

Consider again that dot.

That's here.

That's home.

That's us.

On it everyone you love,  
everyone you know,  
everyone you ever heard of,  
every human being who ever was,  
lived out their lives.

The aggregate of our joy and suffering,  
thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines,  
every hunter and forager,  
every hero and coward,  
every creator and destroyer of civilization,  
every king and peasant,  
every young couple in love,  
every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer,  
every teacher of morals,  
every corrupt politician,  
every "superstar,"  
every "supreme leader,"  
every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there—

on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.





Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that in glory and triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.

Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner.

How frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light.

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark.

In our obscurity—in all this vastness—there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known, so far, to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment,

the Earth is where we make our stand.



**Carl Sagan**

# HUMANITY

## NATURALOPY

### CELEBRATING HUMANITY

Nature favours diversity to ensure the propagation of her creations; Humanity would be wise to also favour diversity when adopting knowledge. Although diverse and in silos, the foundation for our moral guidelines and belief system have been formulated by Humans before us and those still with us. There is no need to attribute to the gods what Humanity has accomplished. The Sumerians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Mayans, and other great civilizations of the past once believed in gods. However, their faith did not save their civilizations.

If we are to co-exist, live peacefully, and advance together as a species, we need to abandon our gods, because fables and science are incompatible.

Since time immemorial, our ancestors have conjured ingenious myths and fables to explain the six primary metaphysical questions of existence (the BIG questions):

- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

Independently, for millennia, in different continents of the world, small groups of men congregated and concluded that humans could not adequately answer these existential

questions. Therefore, due to our ancestors's limited knowledge of the physical world at the time, they used their brilliant imagination. The answers to these pressing questions were deferred to a higher power, an omnipotent figure or a group of them—god or gods. Within each region of the world, ideas were borrowed and passed down from one religion to another, and as a result of empire building, several religions crossed continents and became pervasive in daily life.

As we are still witnessing, due to perpetual conflict, religion is extremely intrusive and problematic on a global scale. The Jews are still fighting Muslims in Israel-Palestine; Jews and Christians are often at loggerheads; Muslim sects are fighting each other throughout the Middle East; Christians are occupying Muslim countries; and Muslims are persecuting Christians in certain parts of the Middle East. It's a quagmire of hate, and this pattern of hate continues despite the fact that Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are all Abrahamic religions—they share the same root. Each one espouses peace as a central tenet of its religion, but we know it is very different in practice.

The inconsistencies, contradictions, and absurdities of every major religion are so glaring and abundant that it would take an encyclopedia to distill, and even chaff.

## Three Religions, One Root, Dozens of Denominations, Countless Interpretations...In Perpetual conflict

First, take the Christians. The Christians believe in the Old Testament and the New Testament bibles, but do not believe in the Torah (Jewish holy book) or Quran (Muslim holy book). Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent by god himself to deliver men from their sins. In the Holy Trinity (conceptualized by Theophilus of Antioch, 412 AD.), Christians believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Holy Spirit, and God himself—a 3 for 1 special. The Christian Holy Bible has been translated and re-interpreted several dozen times; therefore, no one knows how different it really is from the original text, if one did exist.

The Christians have been waiting for over 2,000 years for the second coming of their prophet, Jesus Christ.

500 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

1000 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

1500 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

2000 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

The Kingdom of Heaven is never upon us, for one strange reason or another.

Second, take the Jews. The Jews believe in the Old Testament and the Torah (Talmud), but not the New Testament nor the Quran nor Jesus Christ. The Jews believe Jesus Christ and Muhammad were false prophets. The Jews also believe that they are the Chosen People of god and have been waiting over 5,000 years for their Messiah to appear on Earth. For reasons not generally agreed upon, the Jews have been the most persecuted people in all of Humanity.

Third, take the Muslims. The Muslims believe in every Abrahamic holy book: Old Testament, New Testament (Holy Bible), Torah, and especially Islam's Quran. They also believe in all the Abrahamic prophets and messengers, such as Noah, Moses, Daniel, Elijah, Jesus Christ, and particularly Muhammad. Muslims believe that Muhammed was a prophet and a Messenger of God. Essentially, the Islamic religion is based on the account of one man who claimed he had received the words and will of god through the angel Gabriel. This is religious nuttery at its finest.

The religious madness continues when all the sects (movements, denominations) of each major religion are taken into consideration. The confusion and obfuscation are endless since each group has subgroups (branches) with their own interpretation of the "holy" scriptures. As examples:

Christianity: Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Protestant, and so on.

Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructional, Hasidism, Kabbalah, and so on.

Islam: Ahmadiyya, Ibadi, Shia, Sufism, Sunni, Wahhabi, Nation of Islam, and so on.

If the word of god is final, then why is it so different? And why are there so many of them? And why do they utterly contradict each other? If we just skim the surface of religion, it would be reasonable to conclude that religion was created like TV channels:

at some point a group felt their interests were not being represented and decided to create a new channel (branch, denomination, sect, group). In this new channel, they concocted whatever they needed in order to attract and appease followers. As long as the sheep watched one channel, everything made sense, and considered divine and brilliant. However, as soon as the followers switched channels (self-education), nothing made sense anymore. There were inconsistencies, absurdities, and bull manure—piles and piles of it. Is it any wonder that the phrase “holy shit” is a cultural lexicon? However, we should applaud our ancestors for having wove brilliantly imaginative stories to explain the nature of existence.

Despite advances in communication, technology, education, and science, the moral guidelines and belief systems of most humans are still grounded in myths and fables. Like children reading fairy tale stories, these religious adherents believe *their* magical wizard exists. They cling to the absurd notion that their magical wizard has chosen them as its favourite children, to the exclusion of others—religion divides, Humanity unites. For these reasons, much of the strife and suffering in the world can be attributed to the divisive nature of religion.

Atavistic: characterized by reversion to something ancient or ancestral;  
of a throwback or exhibiting primitivism.

Those who seek comfort in religion have an atavistic worldview—they hold onto the past because the present and future may be unpleasant for them, or they refuse to face the present and future. They refuse to let go and become objective in their worldview.

Religion: When we don't understand how the world works, make it up.

A sore point among the scientific community is that Abrahamic religions still teach their followers that the Universe and Earth were created 6,000 - 10,000 years ago by god, despite overwhelming scientific evidence against the assertion. Science has shown, using radiometric dating, geological stratigraphy, and helioseismic dating, that the Earth is roughly 4.55 billion years old. However, the generally accepted number among Christians is 6,000, and that figure was derived from counting successive generations since Adam and Eve in the Old Testament.

Miseducation is more dangerous than uneducation.



# The Six Existential Questions of Life

There is ample, if not conclusive, evidence to support the theory of abiogenesis. In 1953, scientists Stanley Miller and Howard Urey demonstrated the process in which inorganic molecules mutated to complex organic molecules (amino acids, carbohydrates, nucleic acids) roughly 3.5 billion years ago, paving the way for biological life on Earth.

In 1956, using uranium-lead dating and lead-lead dating methods, geochemist Clair Patterson calculated that the Earth was roughly 4.55 billion years old. Even today, Dr. Patterson's estimate is considered accurate within 20-70 million years.

Recently, scientists have re-enacted the creation of our Universe, the Big Bang, in laboratories, particle accelerators, and computer simulations. The data from scientists working independently around the world places our Universe at roughly 13.7 billion years old. We also know from Nagasaki and Hiroshima that when an atom, invisible to the eyes, is split, it releases enough energy to start a chain reaction powerful enough to destroy a city. From these World War II events and our knowledge that mass and energy are interchangeable, we know that something infinitesimally small has the potential to become massively big under the right conditions—this is the awesome power of Nature.

The truth and answers to life are found in science and education, not in religion. Religion hampers our perspective and understanding of the world. Religion is miseducation. A devout religious person loses precious time; first by miseducation, then by re-education.

Let us ponder the primary existential questions of life, without involving religion.

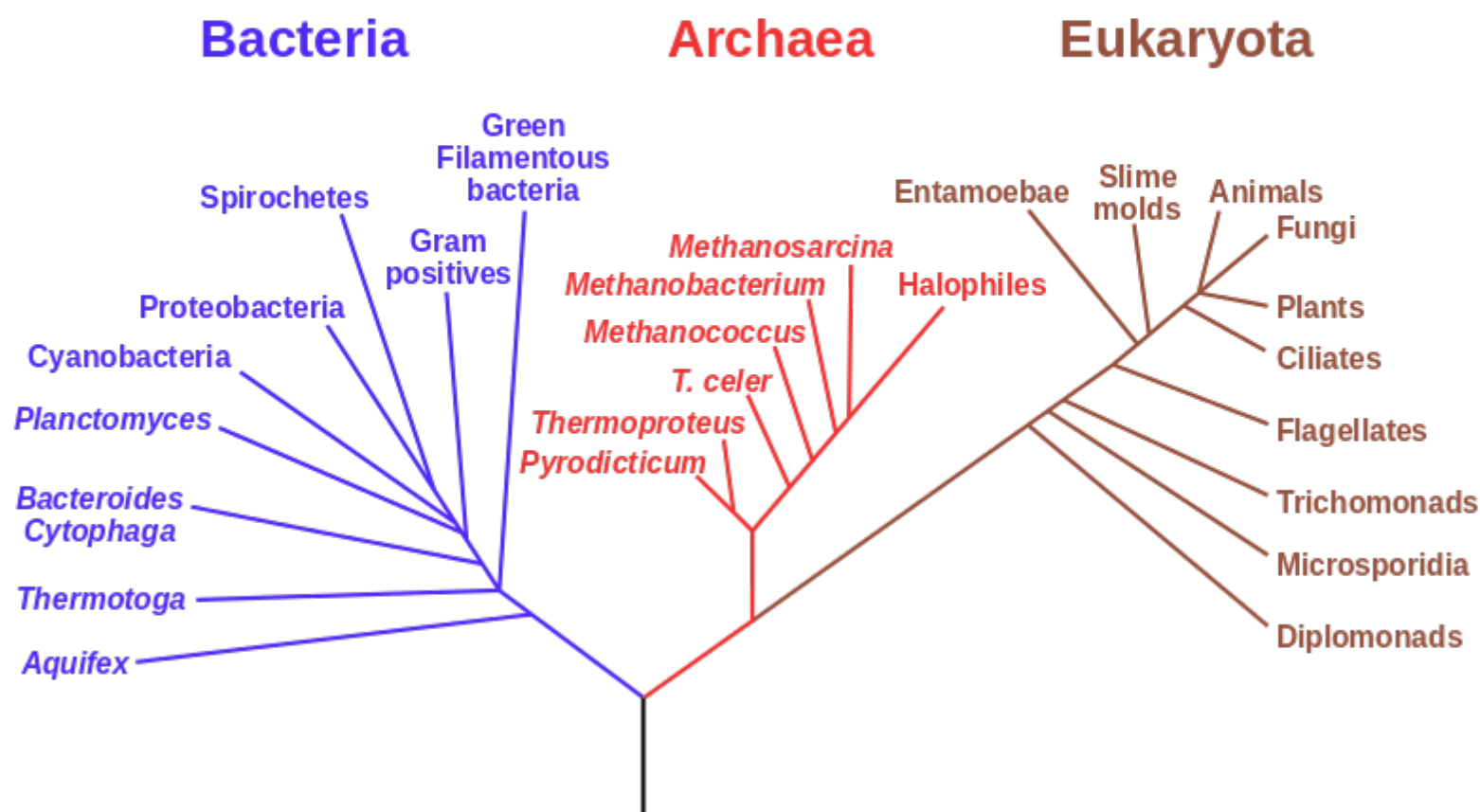
- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

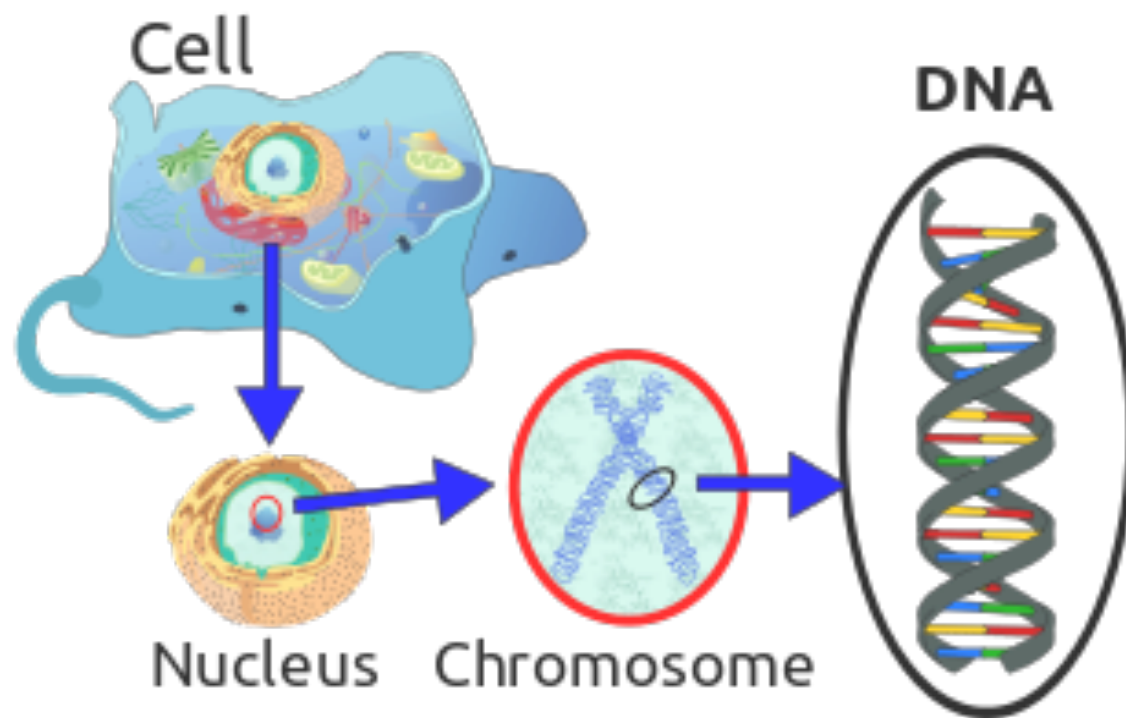
# 1. Where Did We Come From?

We are all powerful and extraordinary, for we were birthed by the stars. Nature created us through roughly 4.55 billion years of experimentation: from atoms; to chemical elements; to inorganic molecules; to complex-organic molecules; to single-celled organisms; to multicellular organisms of microbes and bacteria; to invertebrates, amphibians, fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals; then the grand prize of evolution: Homo Sapiens, a thinking and reasoning animal atop the food chain, capable of the greatest vices and virtues.

We are constructed of the same elements as those in the stars: hydrogen, helium, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, silicon, magnesium, neon, iron, and sulfur. The differences between the elements in our body and those in the Sun are the quantity, ratio, arrangement, and complexity—the fusion of the Sun’s lighter elements created heavier elements, then complex molecules in our body. This fact can be verified with electron microscopes, chemical analysis of our cells, spectral analysis, and carbon dating. We share a common ancestor with every living thing on this planet—the spiritualists knew this without requiring scientific evidence when they stated that “everything is connected to everything else.”

## Phylogenetic Tree of Life





The average human body is comprised of roughly 100 trillion cells, each evolved over 3.5 billion years to perform a special function in a specific organ. Contrary to popular belief, humans did not evolve from apes—we share a common ancestor with them, just like we share a common ancestry with a butterfly, tree, lion, flower, and every organism on this Earth. Therefore, there is no “missing link” in Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Whether biological life began on Earth in the ashes of underwater volcanoes or bacteria from asteroids (meteors) or on the surface of oceans, it began very small as microbes, then amalgamated and evolved from there to bigger organisms.



## 2. What Is Our Purpose In Life?

At the universal level, there is a shared baseline for the purpose of life: eat well, sleep well, mingle well, work well, and enjoy life. Every single study on happiness has shown that our connection to our community is one of the most— many times the most—important factor in how happy we are. Our contribution to our community and connection to Nature form the foundation of happiness and purpose.

At the individual level, the purpose of life is different from person to person. That is, the meaning of life varies depending on the person. It has been said that when we find our passion, we find our purpose. However, history has shown that the most purposeful and remembered lives are those who served Humanity—those who lit the path with glowing lights to show others the way. Their spirits are in this book.

The people who have found their purpose in life share some traits: they went through periods of trial and error before finally deciding what they were good at; they had failed before they succeeded; they enjoy what they do; they feel no need to defend what they do; they view what they do as a passion, not as work or a career; they feel what they do makes a difference in the lives of others; and they give back to their community.

If each and every day of our life, we do something productive that fills our waking hours, that is purpose enough. It will leave the world a better place than we found it.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “The purpose of life is not to find yourself, but to *create* yourself.”

The meaning and purpose of life are covered more in depth in Precept 7: Purpose.

### 3. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Us?

Bad things happen to us for the same reason good things happen to us: the choices we make. The choices we make in life are cumulative and eventually end in consequence. When we made bad decisions, we were either ignorant of the repercussion or had a subconscious desire for the outcome. Summarily, good or bad things happen according to karma—the law of cause and effect. What goes around, comes around.

Of course there are exceptions to this karmic balance; three notable exceptions are natural disasters, unusual circumstances and accidents, and children. When children, vulnerable and impressionable, are inflicted with suffering or evil, it is because they are dependent on their parents or caretakers, thus the child's karma is inherited. Or in reverse, parents are punished through the suffering of their children. Just like children who benefit from their parents's skillful deeds, so do children suffer from their parents's unskillful deeds. Our deeds affect us and those we care about. Only when children become emotionally independent and self-sufficient are they responsible for their own karma.

We reap what we sow.



## 4. Is There A God?

No.

At least not the ones that have been fabricated by humans. Gods have come and gone throughout history, just like the fideist civilizations that worshipped them.

Fideism: The doctrine that religion is the basis of all knowledge; that faith is independent of reason.

Religion has nothing to do with morality and science. We can have morality without religion; we can attain spirituality without priests, rabbis, or imams. We can explain and even predict natural phenomena without the aid of an intelligent designer. We understand how the world works without religious textbooks. We have discovered our origin without faith. We can accurately describe how the cosmos works without a god in it.

If a person does not know right from wrong, then they lack morality. They do not lack religion.

If a person does not understand how the world works, then they lack self-education. They do not lack religion. They have not been enlightened.

If we study history, we know that the Sumerians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, East Indians, Mayans, and every small and large civilization in-between believed in gods at one time or another. They did this for hundreds and even thousands of years. However, gods were created by our ancestors in an attempt to answer existential questions and explain natural phenomena.

- What caused lightening and thunder? God was angry.
- Was a comet a good omen or bad omen? Ask the fortune teller.
- What did a earthquake foretell? The end of the world.
- Why did it rain? Some god in the sky was sad and crying.
- Why did the seasons change? The harvest goddess's daughter was kidnapped and the daughter had to spend six months in hell, this made the goddess sad and

gloomy, therefore winter; when her daughter was returned for six months, the goddess was in a sunny disposition, therefore summer.

- What did the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies represent? Gods and goddesses.

Religion begins where knowledge ends.

Now, let's scrutinize religion from a modern perspective.

- Did Moses really talk to a burning bush on a mountaintop that was supposedly god?
- Did Noah really save civilization and all the animals on his big boat (arc)?
- Was Jesus really the child of a virgin mother; and he walked on water, and arose from the dead?
- Did Muhammad really receive the will of god through an angel?

Unfortunately, there are billions of people who still believe religious nonsense. They have fought, still do fight, and will fight each other to the death for their outdated religious beliefs. Witness the Christian Crusade, the Muslim Jihad, and the Jewish *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (if it's to be believed as authentic). Three religions with supposedly one god, and in practice they can't even agree on the basic principles of that one god, hence the perpetual conflicts. The god question is, "Whose god?"

We are the most advanced civilization that Earth has ever harbored. Despite this fact, there are hundreds of millions of people who lack the fundamental principles of basic science, thus the popularity of religion. In a 2014 survey by the U.S. National Science Foundation, 26% of Americans thought the Sun revolved around the Earth; similarly, 34% of Europeans thought the same thing. In addition, 52% of Americans were unaware that humans evolved from earlier species of animals. The fact that the Earth revolves around the Sun was settled by Nicolaus Copernicus in the 16th century, but was suppressed by the Catholic Church. Similarly, the theory of evolution by Charles Darwin is being perverted and suppressed to this very day by devout Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Now, if the U.S. and Europe are considered First World, how much hope of enlightenment is there in Developing and Third World countries that are steeped in religion?

# A Brief History of Religion

A religion becomes dominant when it is adopted by the elite and ruler. It's a top-down adoption and expansion pattern, and those who blindly follow are considered "sheep" by the enlightened. This herd mentality, blind faith, follow-the-leader, peer pressure, mob rule, or by any other name is true of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths.

First, examine Christianity, which was an illegal and persecuted cult for centuries throughout the Roman Empire. However, this cult became fashionable when Roman Emperor Constantine I adopted it as his official religion and instituted it in the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. From there, Christianity "borrowed" most ideas for Jesus Christ's divinity from the Pagans and Egyptians: birth from a virgin mother, rise after three days of death, Christmas for Winter Solstice, the son of god, the bringer of light, and so on. The Christian faith is a mashup of other faiths. Not surprisingly, there are now scholars who doubt if Jesus Christ had existed at all. If these scholars are right, then Jesus Christ was a fictional character. If Jesus did exist, he might have been a spiritual teacher or philosopher who was lionized and exaggerated by the Creed of Nicaea and subsequent ecumenical councils of Nicaea.

We know from history that Jesus Christ's godly features were fabricated to make him more appealing to the commoners. In truth, Jesus Christ was a product manufactured by the apostles of Nicaea, the predecessors to the priests of the Roman Catholic Church. As we note from history, Jesus was not considered divine until three hundred years after his supposed birth, when it was convenient for the ruling authority. Since the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, and largely thanks to the largesse of Emperor Constantine I, Christianity had spread with the Roman Empire. However, the Roman Empire has long since collapsed, but the Holy Roman Empire is alive and well in the Roman Catholic Church—the Pope has replaced the Emperor. The largest landowner in the world today is the Roman Catholic Church (the Vatican). There is much more to Christianity than religion.

Second, examine Judaism. It is believed that most Jews today are not descendants of the original Semites of the Middle East, but they are converts of European and Turkic heritage (Khazarian Empire theory, 618 - 1048 AD). Nowadays, to label someone a Jew is ambiguous. The Jews could be identified as a race who shared a common ancestry in Judea (Palestine), as the Romans called it. Or the Jews could be identified as a religious group who have adopted Judaism. Since 250 AD, the Jews have been ex-

pelled about 109 times from territories and nations in which they had inhabited—the two most prominent are the Spanish Inquisition (1492) and the World War II Holocaust (1939 - 1944). The Jews have also been victims of numerous edicts and pogroms. Whether they were considered subversive, as scapegoats, or just generally disliked for their belief that they were the Chosen People of God, the Jews as a group have suffered much throughout history. As religious hogwash goes, if god loved the Jews so much that he made them the Chosen People, he would have made more of them, like the 1.1 billion East Indians or the 1.3 billion Chinese. And god certainly would not have created the Israelites to be dependent on the generosity of American taxpayers.

Third, examine Islam, which is the youngest of the three major religions today. Islam came about when Muhammad (Abū al-Qāsim Muḥammad ibn ‘Abd Allāh ibn ‘Abd al-Muṭṭalib ibn Hāshim, 570 - 632 AD) had a series of “divine” revelations. He claimed that the angel Gabriel had revealed to him the words of god. These revelations were recorded in what is now the Muslim holy book, the Quran. When the sheiks and kings of many Arabian tribes adopted Muhammad’s teachings, their followers became Muslim adherents. The word “Muslim” means he who submits to god, or the will of god. In whole, the Muslim faith is based entirely on the account of one man, a businessman no less, who claimed an angel had spoken to him, and that this angel had revealed to him the will of god. If anyone made that claim today they would be locked up in an psychiatric ward and the key thrown away.

Destructive Muslim concepts such as infidels, Sharia Laws, fatwa, and jihad are familiar to non-Muslims. The Quran appears to be a book of fiction written by a man similar to the one who founded Scientology, Ron L. Hubbard. Humanity could face another Dark Age if Islam is spread unchecked. Islam is a backward religion, nothing in it agrees with reason, science, and especially basic human rights.

The three major religions have their root in the Middle East. Today, the region of the Earth that is constantly at war is the Middle East—people with the same ancestry killing each other because they belong to different sects or branches of the same religion. That is Karma on display. If left unrestrained, these religious numbskulls will continue to kill each other to establish nations governed by religious laws (read: theocratic societies, outdated, backward, irrational, oppressive, tyrannical).

Religion was, and is still, used to control people, not enlighten them; religion is the dumbing down of Humanity's potential, because religion is arbitrary and subjective. It is science that enlightens and reason that establishes the principles of morality. If we are to seriously enquire about god, we need to ask questions that we have no answers to.

- Who created god?
- Does god exist in the form of mass, energy, or both?
- Why has the voice or image of god never been heard or seen by a group of people? It's always unverifiable stories from a lone nut in the wilderness.

We've mapped the Earth, the solar system, part of the Milky Way galaxy, and have begun creating a 3-dimensional map of the Universe—where does god reside? If the answer is “everywhere”, that is Nature. Nature exists everywhere.

Religious fanatics like to challenge the agnostic or atheist with, “If you don't believe in god, then what do you believe in?”

A good place to start would be to believe in universal knowledge, collective wisdom, and spirituality. Humanity. Nature. Science.

**If you need to believe in someone, believe in yourself.**



## 5. Are We Alone In The Universe?

Most unlikely. There are an estimated 100-400 billion stars in a galaxy and 100 billion galaxies in the Universe, and these estimates keep increasing as new discoveries are made. Mathematically, according to the theory of chaos and the Frank Drake equation, there are millions of lifeforms in the Universe and probably thousands with our intellectual capacity, and some even exceeding our intellectual capacity. The primordial soup of elements that kickstarted life on Earth is a mathematical reality in millions of other solar systems in the cosmos.

Abiogenesis: The original evolution of life or living organisms from inorganic or inanimate substances.

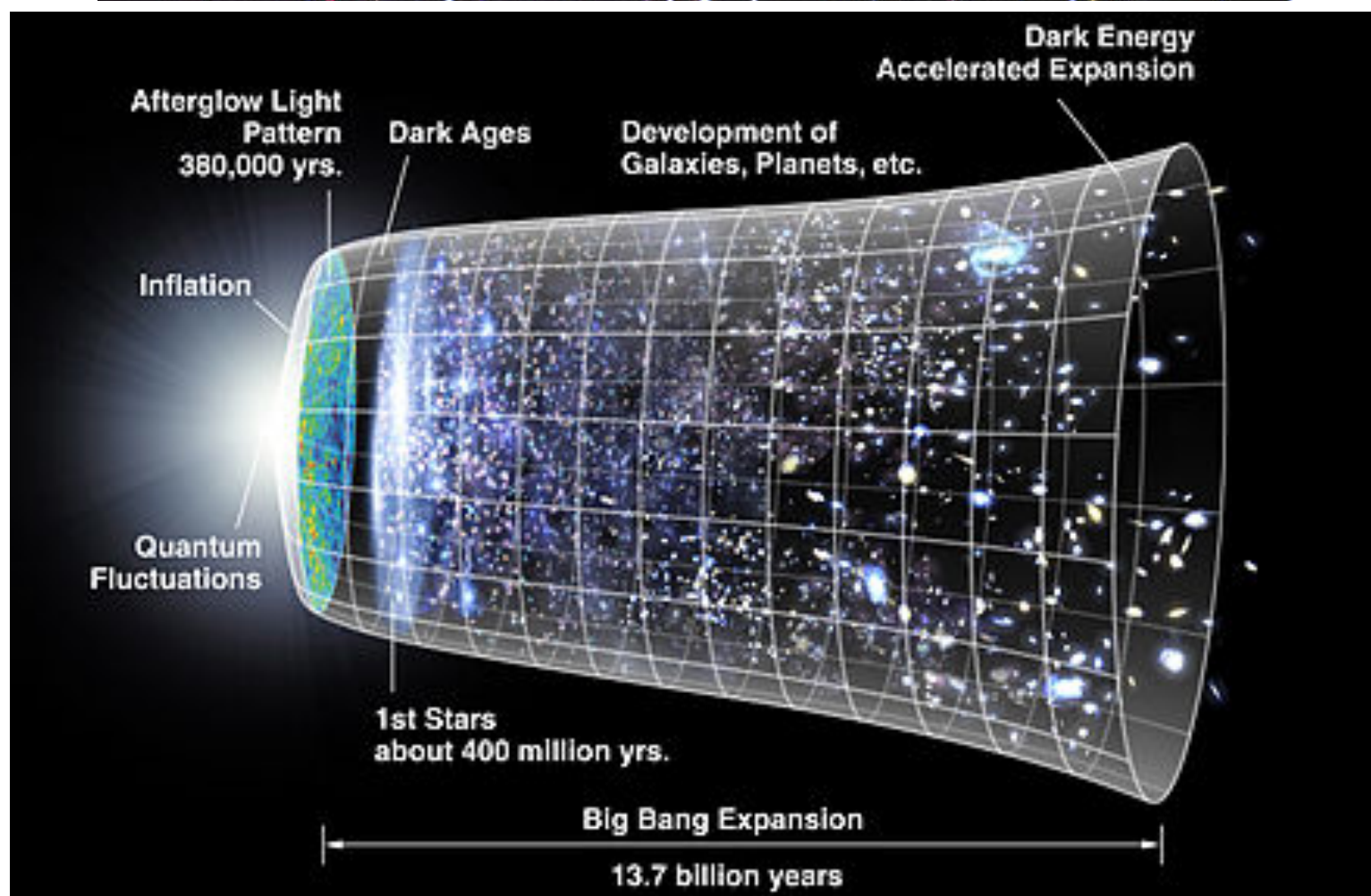
The process of abiogenesis that occurred on Earth, based on mathematical probabilities alone, is repeatable on other planets: atoms forged into light elements, light elements fused into heavier elements in the Sun, then a primordial soup of elements that meshed into inorganic molecules, then electrified and energized to form organic molecules, then prokaryote cells (cells with no nucleus), then eukaryote cells (cells with a nucleus capable of passing on genetic information), to multicellular organisms, to microbes and bacteria, then various species of amphibians, birds, arthropods, reptiles, and mammals. We are the product of Nature's experiment and patience, and Her laws permeate the cosmos. As Michael Faraday put it, "Nothing is too wonderful to be true, if it be consistent with the laws of nature."

Furthermore, according to String Theory, our Universe may only be one of many universes in a multiverse.

Our Universe is roughly 13.7 billion years old. The Earth is approximately 4.55 billion years old and not 6,000 - 10,000 according to Christian (Bible), Jewish (Torah), and Muslim (Quran) textbooks. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are Abrahamic religions—they share the same root and believe that life originated in a corner of the Middle East 6,000 - 10,000 years ago through Creationism. Furthermore, peace is supposed to be a central tenet of these religions but they have been locked in perpetual conflict with no end in sight.

Our spiral Milky Way Galaxy (top) and Universe (bottom).

We are infinitesimally small in the cosmos. We do not need religion to divide us even smaller.



## 6.What Happens To Us After We Die?

There is an afterlife. We know this from observation. However, there is no evidence supporting the notion of heaven and hell as places of reward and damnation in the afterlife. Our afterlife resides in the memories of those we leave behind. Think of all the great people throughout history who are still with us in spirit because they touched our lives—their souls are their Afterlife. Whether our soul becomes famous or infamous, praised or condemned, admired or damned in the afterlife depends on whether we performed good or evil while we lived.

The good that we do will be remembered after we die—the greater the deeds, the longer the afterlife. Our essence lives on through loved ones and service to Humanity.

Throughout this book, we've met the afterlives of many great people who have enlightened us and shown us the path.

The cycle of life as designed by Nature is: birth and death, birth and death, ad infinitum...When something dies, its energy gives birth to another entity in the cosmos.

# Life With Nature In The Cosmos

In summary, the 6 Big Questions of life are:

- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

If the first question can be answered with empirical evidence and by the process of elimination, then the answer to, “Is there a god?”, should be self-evident.

## The God Dilemma

We are infinitesimally small in an unimaginably massive cosmos. If there were a god, it would have to be bigger than unimaginably big to have created the Universe and everything in it. If there were a god in this staggering immensity of existence, who is arrogant or delusional enough to think that god would care for her or him? This god, or intelligent designer, would have to be incomprehensibly powerful and its domain so immeasurably vast, that it would not care what we thought of it either way.

# DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all the brave women and men throughout history who fought against oppression, injustice, and tyranny. They stood up against oppression, injustice, and tyranny by the sword and of the mind. It is because of their courageous souls that many of us are able to enjoy the liberties and amenities of modern life. They are forever with us in spirit because they advanced knowledge and protected innate human rights for every person. They did what was beneficial for Humanity and were awarded with an everlasting Afterlife—their voices echo in this book.

We must have the courage and resolve to carry on their work. In doing so, we can only hope that our light will shine a fraction as bright as theirs in our Afterlife.



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